

# Toyota to pay \$1.2B to settle criminal probe

ERIC TUCKER  
TOM KRISHER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Toyota agreed to pay \$1.2 billion to settle an investigation by the U.S. government, admitting that it hid information about defects that caused Toyota and Lexus vehicles to accelerate unexpectedly and resulted in injuries and deaths. Attorney General Eric Holder said Wednesday that the penalty is the largest of its kind ever imposed on an auto company. The four-year criminal investigation focused on whether Toyota promptly reported the problems related to unintended acceleration. The company admitted to misleading consumers and regulators by assuring them that it had addressed the problems—

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**MOVING FORWARD**

Attorney General Eric Holder, left, accompanied by Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, announces a \$1.2 billion settlement with Toyota over its disclosure of safety problems, Wednesday, March 19, 2014, during a news conference at the Justice Department in Washington.

Associated Press



**Ukrainian servicemen, back, struggle to defend an entrance of the Ukrainian navy headquarters in Sevastopol, Crimea, Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Crimea's self-defense forces on Wednesday stormed the Ukrainian navy headquarters in the Black Sea port of Sevastopol, taking possession without armed resistance a day after Russia signed a treaty with local authorities to annex the region.**

Associated Press

JOHN-THOR DAHLBURG  
PETER LEONARD

Associated Press

**SEVASTOPOL, Crimea (AP)** — Surrendering to Russia's inexorable seizure of Crimea, Ukraine announced plans Wednesday for mass troop with-

drawals from the strategic peninsula as Moscow-loyal forces seized control of Kiev's naval headquarters here and detained its commander.

Attempting to face down the unblinking incursion, Ukraine said it would hold

## Ukraine bows to Crimea seizure, plans for pullout

joint military exercises with the United States and Britain.

Hours after masked Russian-speaking troops forced their way onto Ukraine's main naval base here, forlorn Ukrainian soldiers streamed out carrying clothing and other belongings in bags. A group of local militia and Cossacks, later joined by officers from Russia's Black Sea Fleet, looked on.

Just how many retreating troops Ukraine will have to absorb in what amounts to a military surrender of Crimea was unclear. Many servicemen have already switched sides to Russia, but authorities said they were prepared to relocate as many as 25,000 soldiers

and their families to the Ukrainian mainland.

Humbled but defiant, Ukraine lashed out symbolically at Russia by declaring its intent to leave the Moscow-dominated Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose alliance of 11 former Soviet nations. The last nation to leave the group was Georgia, which lost a brief war with neighboring Russia in 2008 and ended up losing two separatist territories.

Vice President Joe Biden, in Lithuania trying to reassure nations bordering Russia alarmed by the sight of an expansion-minded neighbor, said the U.S. would stand by them.

"We're in this with you, together," Biden said.

Ukraine has been powerless to prevent Russian troops from taking control of Crimea, which President Vladimir Putin formally annexed Tuesday with the stroke of a pen. Crimea's absorption came after a hastily organized referendum in which the population overwhelmingly, albeit under conditions akin to martial law, voted in favor of seceding from Ukraine and joining Russia. Russia's Constitutional Court chairman, Valery Zorkin, said Wednesday the treaty signed by Putin has been ruled valid, meaning it now only requires ratification by the Russian parliament.

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# CIA-U.S. Senate spat complicates spying oversight

EILEEN SULLIVAN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. government's top intelligence lawyers on Wednesday renewed assurances that Congress is adequately monitoring government surveillance programs. But it's suddenly an awkward argument for the Obama administration, since the head of the Senate Intelligence Committee publicly accused the CIA of illegally monitoring its investigators as they carried out their oversight duties.

Since disclosures about the National Security Agency's surveillance programs, including the collection of phone records and emails of millions of U.S. citizens, the administration has said they were approved and overseen by all three branches of government. The congressional intelligence committees are intended to keep the government's secret activities in check. Those lawmakers are privy to classified details, and Americans rely on them to ensure that the intelligence community follows the law, that the intelligence collection doesn't eviscerate civil liberties, and that the programs are effective in preventing threats to the U.S.

"We've set the balance between public disclosure



In this March 11, 2014, photo, Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. talks to reporters as she leaves the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 11, 2014, after saying that the CIA's improper search of a stand-alone computer network established for Congress has been referred to the Justice Department.

Associated Press

and the need for secrecy by empowering the congressional intelligence committees," Robert Litt, general counsel of the office of the director of national intelligence, said Wednesday. Litt was speaking to a privacy oversight panel that has been reviewing some of the more controversial spy programs revealed last year.

But that balance is suspect amid complaints that the executive branch interferes with Congress. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the chair

of the Senate Intelligence Committee and a long-time supporter of the NSA surveillance programs, has accused the government of this type of interference. Feinstein said the CIA interfered with and then tried to intimidate a congressional investigation into the agency's possible use of torture as it probed suspected terrorists after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"This is kind of a raw example of how things can go wrong in congressional oversight," said David M.

Barrett, a Villanova University professor who has studied the history of Congress and the intelligence community.

"Congressional oversight of intelligence is going to be imperfect. It always is."

Some lawmakers have said the allegations, if true, have constitutional implications by preventing Congress from carrying out its oversight duties — the same duties the Obama administration points to when it justifies the legality of its intelligence programs.

When details of the NSA programs were disclosed last year by former NSA systems analyst Edward Snowden, the Obama administration and other supporters said the programs were key to preventing terrorism. But justifying the effectiveness of a secret program proved difficult, because details are classified. "How can anybody expect you people do that?" a member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, Patricia Wald, asked the government.

The Obama administration's answer: Congress.

"I think the public record now indicates there is a fairly robust exchange between the executive branch and the legislative branch on a variety of programs. And so I think that's where traditionally the evaluation has occurred," NSA general counsel Rajesh De said.

Privacy advocates have been critical of the congressional oversight of the NSA programs, raising concerns that lawmakers are too close to the administration, hindering objective and effective oversight of the secret programs.

"Even when Congress tries to do some oversight, they're thwarted by the administration," said Michelle Richardson of the American Civil Liberties Union. "I

## U.S. irate with Israeli defense minister comments

MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Obama administration on Wednesday vented its anger at the Israeli defense minister's public criticism of the U.S. and his personal insults of Secretary of State John Kerry.

In a new sign of tension between top officials of the two allies as Washington tries to forge an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal and negotiate with Iran over its nuclear program, Kerry called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

to protest recent remarks by Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon.

Yaalon this week accused the Obama administration of being weak on Iran and questioned its commitment to Israel's security. Previously, Yaalon has criticized Kerry personally for being unrealistic and naive in trying to forge an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Yaalon's remarks were "not constructive" and "inconsistent" with the close relationship between the U.S.

and Israel.

Psaki repeated Obama and Kerry's oft-stated position that the U.S. commitment to Israel's security is "unshakable," outlined several main elements of the longstanding U.S.-Israeli defense relationship. And she noted that Netanyahu himself has spoken of an "unprecedented level" of security cooperation between the countries.

"The comments of the defense minister are completely inconsistent with that," Psaki told reporters. "So, it is certainly confusing



In this March 18, 2014 file photo, Secretary of State John Kerry speaks during a town hall meeting at the State Department.

Associated Press

to us why Defense Minister Yaalon would continue his pattern of making comments that don't accurately represent the scope

of our close partnership on a range of security issues and on the enduring partnership between the United States and Israel."



## Toyota

Continued from Front

which became public in 2009 following a car crash in San Diego that killed a family of four — through a limited safety recall of certain models. Toyota knew at the time that it hadn't recalled other models susceptible to the same acceleration problem and also took steps to conceal a separate acceleration problem related to a faulty pedal, according to the Justice Department.

"In other words, Toyota confronted a public safety emergency as if it were a simple public relations problem," Attorney General Eric Holder said at a news conference.

Toyota said in a statement that in the four years since the recalls it had "made fundamental changes to become a more responsive and customer-focused organization, and we are committed to continued improvements."

The company's finances have recovered from the recalls, as well as the recession and the 2011 tsunami in Japan. But its once-sterling reputation for quality and reliability has been tarnished, and its market share is still below where it was in 2009.

Prosecutors filed a criminal charge Wednesday alleging the company defrauded consumers by issuing misleading statements. They said they'll move to dismiss the charge in three years if Toyota complies with the terms of the settlement. An independent monitor will review policies, practices and procedures at the company.

No Toyota executives were charged under the deal. U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara of the Southern District of New York, whose office brought the case, said he expected the agreement to be a "final resolution."

Starting in 2009, Toyota issued massive recalls, mostly in the U.S., totaling more than 10 million vehicles for various problems including faulty brakes, sticky gas pedals and ill-fitting floor mats. From 2010 through 2012, Toyota paid fines totaling more than \$66 million for delays in reporting safety problems. Toyota agreed last year to pay more than \$1 billion to owners of its cars who claimed to have suffered economic losses because of the recalls.

The company still faces wrongful death and injury lawsuits that have been consolidated in California state and federal courts. In December, Toyota filed court papers after saying

that it's in settlement talks on nearly 400 U.S. lawsuits, but some other cases aren't included in the talks. The negotiations began less than two months after an Oklahoma jury awarded \$3 million in damages to the injured driver of a 2005 Camry and to the family of a passenger who was killed. The ruling was significant because Toyota had won all previous unintended acceleration cases that went to trial. It was also the first case where attorneys for plaintiffs argued that the car's electronics — in this case the software connected to a midsize Camry's electronic throttle-control system — were the cause of the unintended acceleration. At the time, legal experts said the Oklahoma verdict might cause Toyota to consider a broad settlement of the remaining cases.

Toyota has blamed drivers, stuck accelerators or floor mats that trapped the gas pedal for the acceleration claims that led to the big recalls of Camrys and other vehicles. The company has repeatedly denied the electronics are flawed.

No recalls have been issued related to problems with onboard electronics. In the Oklahoma case, Toyota attorneys theorized that the driver mistakenly



In this Nov. 5, 2010 file photo released by the Utah Highway Patrol, a Toyota Camry is shown after it crashed as it exited Interstate 80 in Wendover, Utah.

Associated Press

pumped the gas pedal instead of the brake when her Camry ran through an intersection and slammed into an embankment.

But after the verdict, jurors told AP they believed the testimony of an expert who said he found flaws in the car's electronics.

While significant, the latest penalty isn't a severe hit to Toyota's finances. In its last fiscal quarter alone, Toyota posted a \$5.2 billion profit, crediting strong global sales.

Toyota's U.S. market share, however, has fallen more than 4 percentage points since unintended acceleration came to the forefront in August of 2009, when a California Highway Patrol

officer and three others were killed in a fiery crash.

At the time, Toyota controlled 17.8 percent of the U.S. market. Gas prices were high, favoring Toyota's fuel-efficient small cars and hybrids. Detroit automakers were in serious financial trouble and had few fuel-efficient cars for sale. By last month, though, Toyota's share totaled just 13.3 percent, according to Autodata Corp. Citi research analyst Itay Michaeli estimated last week that the recalls have cost Toyota more than 1 percentage point of market share. And the Detroit and South Korean automakers now sell more competitive small and midsize cars. □

## Pvt. Manning seeks formal name change to Chelsea

DAVID DISHNEAU  
Associated Press

The Army private who was tried and convicted as Bradley Edward Manning for leaking U.S. secrets to WikiLeaks is petitioning a Kansas court for a name change, to Chelsea Elizabeth Manning.

Leavenworth County District Court has scheduled an April 23 hearing on the request, according to a Leavenworth Times legal notice sent Wednesday to The Associated Press by a spokesman at Fort Leavenworth, where Manning is serving a 35-year sentence. The petition was filed Jan. 27 and published March 1 after it was submitted by Manning's lawyer, David Coombs of Providence, Rhode Island.

Coombs didn't immediately respond to questions about the petition. Manning said in an October letter to supporters that Coombs would help her with the name change.

The Private Manning Support Network announced the petition on its website Wednesday. The group also said it is changing its name to the Chelsea Manning Support Network.

Officials at Fort Leavenworth have said Manning would have to get a legal name change to be known as Chelsea.

The Associated Press has referred to Manning as Chelsea since shortly after she announced in August her desire to be known by that name and treated as a woman. Manning has



In this undated file photo provided by the U.S. Army, Pfc. Bradley Manning poses for a photo wearing a wig and lipstick.

Associated Press

been diagnosed by at least two Army behavioral health specialists with gender dysphoria, or gender identity disorder.

In addition to the name

change, Manning has asked to receive hormone replacement therapy and live as a woman while incarcerated. She and Coombs have said they will

go to court, if necessary, to obtain the hormone treatment.

Civilian federal prisons are required to provide such treatment, if deemed medically necessary, for inmates diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Unlike in military prisons, the policy also allows inmates who believe they are the wrong gender to dress and live accordingly as part of their individual treatment plans. The military has said it does not provide treatment for gender dysphoria because Pentagon policy dictates that transgender soldiers are not allowed to serve. But Manning can't be discharged until she's released from prison and exhausts appeals of her criminal convictions. □



# Ex-al-Qaida spokesman recalls 9/11 with bin Laden



This image made from video provided by by Al-Jazeera shows Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, Osama bin Laden's son-in-law and spokesman.

Associated Press

**LARRY NEUMEISTER**  
**TOM HAYS**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Osama bin Laden's son-in-law offered a rare glimpse of the al-Qaida leader in the hours after the Sept. 11 attacks, recounting during surprise testimony Wednesday in a Manhattan courtroom how the two met that night in a cave in Afghanistan. The testimony came as Su-

laiman Abu Ghaith's trial on charges he conspired to kill Americans and aid al-Qaida as a spokesman for the terrorist group took a dramatic turn.

His decision to take the witness stand was announced by his lawyer, Stanley Cohen, who surprised a nearly empty courtroom that quickly filled with spectators as word spread.

"Did you learn about what

happened ... the attacks on the United States?" the son-in-law recalled bin Laden asking him.

"We are the ones who did it."

Abu Ghaith testified that bin Laden seemed worried that night and asked what he thought would happen next. Abu Ghaith said he predicted America "will not settle until it accomplishes two things: to kill you

and topple the state of the Taliban."

Bin Laden responded: "'You're being too pessimistic,'" Abu Ghaith recalled. Bin Laden then offered the onetime imam a job that would gain him infamy as well as a place in the inner circle of the world's most wanted terrorist. "I want to deliver a message to the world," Abu Ghaith said bin Laden told him. "... I want you to deliver that message."

The testimony was a rare gambit by the defense, a last-ditch effort to counter a mountain of evidence against Abu Ghaith, including an alleged confession and videos showing him sitting beside Bin Laden on Sept. 12, 2001, and another in which he warned Americans that "the storm of airplanes will not abate." The defense has never disputed that Abu Ghaith associated with bin Laden after 9/11,

but it contends he was recruited as a religious teacher and orator, and had no role in plotting more attacks.

On cross examination, though, Abu Ghaith admitted that he sent his pregnant wife, six daughters and a son to Kuwait while he went to Afghanistan on

Sept. 7, 2001, after hearing inside and outside al-Qaida training camps that something big was going to happen soon.

"I had heard something would happen but I didn't know what," he said in response to Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Ferrara's questions. Lacing some questions with sarcasm, Ferrara took particular aim at Abu Ghaith's claims that he was merely embellishing bin Laden's "bullet points" on videotapes as he condemned America.

And Abu Ghaith's testimony also gave the prosecutor an opportunity to again show video clips of Abu Ghaith angrily denouncing America and of the second plane hitting a World Trade Center tower on Sept. 11. Ferrara mocked Abu Ghaith's statement that he stayed and helped bin Laden for two weeks after Sept. 11 because the conditions in Afghanistan were tense and he had no way to travel.

"You are telling this jury that you made a speech in which you called on people to terrorize the infidels because you didn't have a personal car?" he said, drawing from one juror a smile and a nod to a fellow juror. □

# Obama: Finding missing plane a top U.S. priority

**DARLENE SUPERVILLE**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama says finding out what happened to the missing Malaysia Airlines plane is a top priority for the U.S.

In his first public comments on the mind-boggling disappearance, Obama said Wednesday that every available U.S. resource is being used in the search, including the FBI, the National Transportation Safety Board and others who deal with aviation. Finding the plane will take time because the search area is so vast, he said, but the U.S. will continue working in close cooperation with the Malaysian government,



A woman pushes her baby cart in front of the messages board for passengers aboard a missing Malaysia Airlines plane at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia, Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Associated Press

which is leading the investigation, "to see if we can get to the bottom of this."

Flight 370 had 239 passengers and crew members on board when it disap-

peared March 8 on a night flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing.

"We have put every resource that we have available at the disposal of the search process," Obama said in an interview with Dallas-Fort Worth television station KDFW. He said the nation's thoughts and prayers were with the grieving families.

Three Americans were aboard the flight.

"We're going to keep on working with the international community" to try to determine what happened to the plane, Obama said. The president has been getting daily updates on the status of the search and the investiga-

tion, and U.S. contributions to the search effort, White House press secretary Jay Carney said.

In the interview, Obama also addressed rampant speculation and multiple theories about what may have happened to the aircraft, blaming it on the many unanswered questions about the mysterious disappearance nearly two weeks ago of the Boeing 777. He acknowledged that it's a "tough situation." "It's a big piece of planet that we're searching and sometimes these things take time,

but we hope and pray that we can get to the bottom of what happened," he said. □





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## More than 100 people found in house in Texas

**RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI**  
**Associated Press**

**HOUSTON (AP)** — A house overflowing with more than 100 people presumed to be in the U.S. illegally was uncovered just outside Houston on Wednesday, a police spokesman said.

The suspected stash house was found during a search for a 24-year-old woman and her two children, a 7-year-old girl and a 5-year-old boy, that were reported missing by relatives late Tuesday after a man failed to meet them as planned at an undisclosed location on the city's north side, said John Cannon, a spokesman for the Houston Police Department. Many of the people in home that authorities said appeared to be part of a human smuggling operation were dressed only in undergarments and they were sitting in in filthy conditions and surrounded by trash bags full of old clothing, Cannon said.

When police opened the door to the home they found "a large, large group of people, some sitting on top of one another, very confined spaces," Cannon said. "They yell out the woman's name to see if she is in there, and she emerges with the two children. They're OK."

The single-family home, in southern Harris County, is about 1,500-square-feet, Cannon said. At first, officers saw only a mattress on

the floor and a refrigerator in an exterior room. It was when they went further into the house that they found the people — 94 men, all in their undergarments and shoeless, 15 women and the woman with her two children — lying in filth in several small rooms, all with access to one bathroom and no hot water.

Many of the women said they had been in the house for three or four days, he said.

One woman said she had been there for 15 days. All of them said they were hungry, thirsty and tired.

"It was just filth, very squalid-like conditions inside. Trash bags with clothing piled as high as you can see," Cannon said. "They were very surprised at the numbers of people inside. Some were just sitting on top of one another because there was just no room."

Authorities said five men have been arrested.

Houston police have handed the investigation over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE spokesman Greg Palmore said it has been five years since officials uncovered a house in the Houston area with this many people inside. In 2012, a house with 86 people was discovered, he said.

ICE took the people in the home into custody and they will be questioned and fed, Palmore said. The people were primarily from



People wait outside a house as authorities hold an investigation, Wednesday, March 19, 2014, in southeast Houston.

Associated Press

Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador, he said. Two of the people, a pregnant woman and a man, have been taken to a hospital for unknown treatment, he added. Although Palmore said it was too early to say whether this was part of a human trafficking operation, he said it appeared that way.

Houston sits about seven hours from the Mexican border, making it a popular route for immigrants, Palmore explained.

"Houston is significant for the highway corridors that make up Houston, I-45 and

I-10. With those two traffic corridors you can pan out anywhere in the United States," Palmore said. "And it's very easy to assimilate into the communities here." The home was found after Houston police were tipped off that the woman and children they were looking for may have been taken there. Cannon said police set up surveillance points outside the house early Wednesday and pulled over a car with two men inside for a routine traffic stop when they saw them leaving the driveway. Handguns and documents

that suggested illegal activity were found in the car, leading police to detain the two men and enter the house, he said.

After the people were removed and a count began, three men attempted to flee on foot, Cannon said. Those men have also been detained and are suspected of illegal activity as well. In addition, police found two coops with hundreds of chickens on the property that are part of an investigation into illegal cock-fighting, he said. Police have not identified the suspects. □



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## APNewsBreak: NYC inmate 'baked to death' in cell

**JAKE PEARSON**  
**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A mentally ill homeless veteran who died behind bars last month "basically baked to death" in a jail cell that overheated to more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37 Celsius), a New York City official tells The Associated Press.

Fifty-six-year-old Jerome Murdough, a former U.S. Marine, had been charged with trespassing and placed in an observation unit for inmates with mental illnesses at Rikers Island.

Four city officials say Murdough, who took anti-psychotic and anti-seizure medication, apparently did not open a small vent to let cool air into his cell, as other inmates did. Officials also said he was not checked for hours, in violation of department protocol.

The officials said the medication may have made him more vulnerable to heat.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation by the city's Department of Correction. The medical examiner's office said an autopsy was inconclusive and that more tests were needed to determine Murdough's exact cause of death. But the officials, all with detailed knowledge of the case, say initial indications from the autopsy and investigation point to extreme dehydration or heat stroke.

Advocates for mentally ill inmates in New York say the death represents the



In this March 12, 2014 photo, Alma Murdough and her daughter Cheryl Warner hold a photo of Murdough's son, at her home in the Queens borough of New York.

Associated Press

failure of the city's justice system on almost every level: by arresting Murdough instead of finding him help, by setting bail at a prohibitive \$2,500 and by not supervising him closely in what is supposed to be a special observation unit for inmates with mental illnesses.

Of the 12,000 inmates who make up the nation's second-largest jail system, about 40 percent are mentally ill, and a third of them suffer from serious mental problems, the Department of Correction said. Advocates and others have long argued that correc-

tion officers are not sufficiently trained to deal with mentally ill inmates whose needs are complex.

In a statement issued Wednesday, Department of Correction Acting Commissioner Mark Cranston called Murdough's death "unfortunate" and reiterated that an internal investigation will look into the entire episode, "including issues of staff performance and the adequacy of procedures."

According to the city officials, Murdough was locked alone into his cinderblock cell at about 10:30 p.m. on Feb. 14, a week after his ar-

rest. Because he was in the mental-observation unit, he was supposed to be checked every 15 minutes as part of suicide watch, they said.

But Murdough was not discovered until four hours later, at about 2:30 a.m. on Feb. 15. He was slumped over in his bed and already dead. Dr. Susi Vassallo, an associate professor at New York University School of Medicine and a national expert on heat-related deaths who monitors heat conditions at Rikers Island, said psychotropic medications can impair the body's ability to cool itself by

sweating, making it retain more heat than it should.

Exposure to intense heat for a couple of hours by someone on such medications could be fatal, she said. Jennifer J. Parish, an attorney at the New York-based Urban Justice Center's Mental Health Project, said Murdough appeared to be a man in need of care. "So Mr. Murdough violated the trespass law. So he suffered the consequences by going to jail," Parish said. "But the jail system committed more serious harm to him. And the question is, 'Will they ever be held responsible?'" □



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## Court reverses convictions in aiding-suicide case

AMY FORLITI

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A

U.S. court reversed the convictions of a former nurse accused of searching the Internet for suicidal people and encouraging two to kill themselves, ruling Wednesday that part of a law banning someone from "encouraging" suicide is unconstitutional.

William Melchert-Dinkel was convicted in 2011 of two counts of aiding suicide, after a judge found he "intentionally advised and encouraged" an English man and a Canadian woman to take their own lives. But the Minnesota Supreme Court found that language in state law that makes it illegal to "advise" or "encourage" suicide is too broad and encompasses speech that expresses a viewpoint and is protected under the First Amendment.

However, the justices upheld part of the law that makes it a crime to "assist" in someone's suicide — and said speech could be considered assisting. Since the lower court judge did not issue a ruling on "assisting" suicide, Melchert-Dinkel's case was sent back to that judge for further consideration.

"It's a legal system; it's not a justice system. The two are completely different," said Deborah Chevalier, the mother of the Canadian woman. "At the very least, the world knows what he's done. His friends, his family know what he's done. He can't run away from that."

Wednesday's ruling will likely affect the outcome of another case that challenged the constitutionality of Minnesota's assisted-suicide law.



In this Feb. 17, 2011, file photo, William Melchert-Dinkel, center, leaves the Rice County Courthouse with his attorney Terry Watkins, right, and wife, Joyce Melchert-Dinkel, after waiving his right to a jury trial, in Faribault, Minn.

Associated Press

That case, pending before the state Supreme Court, involves members of Final Exit Network, a national right-to-die group, who were involved in the 2007 death of a woman. Evidence in the Melchert-Dinkel case showed he was obsessed with suicide and sought out depressed people online. When he found them, he posed as a suicidal female nurse, feigning compassion and offering step-by-step instructions on how they could kill themselves.

Melchert-Dinkel told police

he did it for the "thrill of the chase." According to court documents, he acknowledged participating in online chats about suicide with up to 20 people and entering into fake suicide pacts with about 10, five of whom he believed killed themselves.

He was convicted in the deaths of Nadia Kajouji, 18, of Brampton, Ontario, and Mark Drybrough, 32, of Coventry, England. Kajouji jumped into a frozen river in 2008, and Drybrough hanged himself in 2005.

He was sentenced to 360

days in jail, but that was put on hold and he has remained free while the appeal was pending.

Melchert-Dinkel's attorney, Terry Watkins, said he doesn't believe there's enough evidence to prove his client assisted in the deaths.

"We've never pretended that the actions that he did should be condoned or should be admired ... but constitutionally, he was not in the wrong," Watkins said. Minnesota authorities began investigating Melchert-Dinkel in March 2008 when

an anti-suicide activist in Britain told them that someone in the state was using the Internet to manipulate people into killing themselves.

Beaumaster, the prosecutor, said everyone has the right to voice his or her opinion, but the state also has to try to protect vulnerable people.

"It's not free speech to try to get other individuals to take their lives," Beaumaster said. "In fact, it's, I think, the antithesis of what our Constitution was meant to be." □



# Dutch politician Wilders leads anti-Moroccan chant

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — The Dutch right-wing populist politician Geert Wilders has led his supporters in an anti-Moroccan chant. At a party meeting Wednesday evening in The Hague, where his Freedom Party is set to win the most votes in municipal elections, Wilders asked supporters whether they wanted "more or fewer" Moroccans in the Netherlands. His supporters chanted back: "Fewer! Fewer! Fewer!" before breaking into applause. "Good, we're going to take care of that," Wilders said. Wilders' party is the fourth-largest in Parliament but leads in national opinion polls. His rise to popularity in the Netherlands over the past decade came amid a surge of anti-immigrant sentiment in a country once famed for its tolerance. □



In this Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014 file photo, Dutch populist politician Geert Wilders presents a study, during a press conference in The Hague, Netherlands.

Associated Press

# Watchdog: 45 percent of Syrian chemicals removed

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — The world's chemical weapons watchdog says more than 45 percent of the raw materials for Syria's poison gas and nerve agent program slated for destruction outside the country have been shipped out. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons announced Wednesday that two shipments were loaded onto cargo ships in recent days at Latakia port. Syria has missed several

deadlines on a timetable agreed last year to eradicate its chemical weapons by June 30, but insists it will meet the final deadline. It recently pledged to remove all chemicals by the end of April. The chemicals will eventually be transferred to a U.S. ship, the MV Cape Ray, which has been fitted with equipment to neutralize hundreds of tons of the most toxic chemicals under supervision by OPCW experts. □

## Crimea

Continued from Front

On Wednesday morning, militiamen under apparent Russian command barged their way into Ukraine's naval headquarters in Sevastopol, detaining the head of Ukraine's navy and seizing the facility. The incursion, which Ukraine's Defense Ministry described as being led by a self-described local defense force, Cossacks and "aggressive women," proceeded with no resistance. Upon gaining entrance to the base, the storming party raised a Russian flag on the headquarters square. The unarmed militiamen waited for an hour on the square and, following the arrival of the commander of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, they took over the building. By afternoon, they were in full control of the naval headquarters, a set of three-story white concrete buildings with blue trim. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry said Rear Adm. Sergei Haiduk was detained and a news agency close to the Russian-backed local authorities reported that he had been summoned for questioning by prosecutors. Later in the day, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu ordered the Crimean authorities to re-

lease Haiduk.

With thousands of Ukrainian soldiers and sailors trapped on military bases, surrounded by heavily armed Russian forces and pro-Russia militia, the Kiev government said it was drawing up plans to evacuate its outnumbered troops from Crimea back to the mainland and would seek U.N. support to turn the peninsula into a demilitarized zone.

"We are working out a plan of action so that we can transfer not just servicemen, but first of all, members of their family who are in Crimea, quickly and effectively to mainland Ukraine," said Andriy Parubiy, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council.

Parubiy also announced Ukraine would hold military maneuvers with the United States and Britain, signatories, along with Russia, of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum. He provided no details.

The document was designed to guarantee Ukraine's territorial integrity when it surrendered its share of Soviet nuclear arsenals to Russia after the Soviet Union broke up in 1991. Ukraine has accused Russia of breaching the agreement by taking over the Crimean Peninsula.

In Washington, the Pentagon said it would par-



Crimean self-defense forces scuffle with Ukrainian servicemen outside the Ukrainian Navy headquarters in Sevastopol, Crimea, Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Crimea's self-defense forces on Wednesday stormed the Ukrainian navy headquarters in the Black Sea port of Sevastopol, taking possession without resistance a day after Russia signed a treaty with local authorities to annex the region.

ticipate as planned in a multinational military exercise this summer in Ukraine. Dubbed "Rapid Trident," the ground maneuvers have been held annually for a number of years with forces from Britain and other NATO countries as well as Ukraine, which has a partner relationship with NATO but is not a member. The Pentagon gave no details on the number of U.S. forces expected to participate or when the exercises would be held. Last year, the two-week maneuvers

involving 17 nations were held in July.

Meanwhile, in a warning to Moscow, Biden declared that the United States will respond to any aggression against its NATO allies, including neighbors to Russia. Standing with two Baltic leaders in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius, Biden said the U.S. was "absolutely committed" to defending its allies, adding that President Barack Obama plans to seek concrete commitments from NATO members to ensure the alliance can

safeguard its collective security.

"Russia cannot escape the fact that the world is changing and rejecting outright their behavior," Biden said after meeting with Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė and Latvian President Andris Bērziņš.

Beyond the grander political gestures of the day, Parubiy said Ukraine's Foreign Ministry had been instructed to introduce a visa regime for travel between the two nations. □



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## Cartel inside Kenya fueling rhino, poaching deaths



In this Monday, Dec. 17, 2012 file photo, a herd of adult and baby elephants walks in the dawn light as the highest mountain in Africa Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania is seen in the background, in Amboseli National Park, southern Kenya.

Associated Press

**JASON STRAZIUSO**  
**Associated Press**

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** — A famed scientist and founding former chairman of the Kenya Wildlife Service urged Kenya's president on Wednesday to invoke emergency measures to protect the country's elephants and rhinos from a poaching crisis sweeping Africa.

Richard Leakey also said the Kenyan Wildlife Service has been infiltrated by powerful people enriching themselves off poaching. Kenya's poaching ring leaders are known, he said, but the government has

taken no action. He did not give names.

Leakey, whose family has been investigating the origins of man for decades in Kenya's Turkana region, urged Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta to overhaul management at the wildlife service.

"I call on him now personally to take the next step and get this under control," Leakey told a packed news conference at a Nairobi hotel. "It's not an impossible task. I think the right leadership, the right management, can get it under control within six months."

The official number of ele-

phant deaths given by the Kenya Wildlife Service does not indicate a crisis. Kenyan Wildlife Service says 302 were killed last year, down from 384 in 2012, out of an estimated population of 35,000. Thirty elephants have been poached this year, it says.

But Leakey and Paula Kahumbu, the chief executive of the group Wildlife Direct, said they believe Kenya is losing many more elephants. Kahumbu said "everyone knows those numbers are wrong." Leakey said: "It's patently not true."

During the news confer-

ence, wildlife service spokesman Paul Uduto asked why the pair were "bashing" the group when he said the service is filled with dedicated rangers who risk their lives to protect wildlife. The two acknowledged that many inside the service do good work, but they said impunity for those doing wrong is rampant.

Conservationists attending the news conference approached Uduto afterward and complained that the wildlife service is covering up the extent of the problem. Uduto noted that it publicly published figures

from an elephant census in February from the Tsavo ecosystem that counted about 11,000 elephants, down from 12,573 three years ago.

Kahumbu said that is evidence of an average of 500 poaching deaths per year in Tsavo the last three years.

"If we are failing, if somebody believes we are failing, action should be taken," Uduto said in a later interview. "We are doing our best. Our people are working under incredibly difficult conditions, and we want public support, not condemnations." □



# AP Exclusive: Jailed militant key to Mideast talks



In this file photo taken Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012, senior Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti appears at Jerusalem's court.

**MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH**  
**Associated Press**  
**RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)**

— A prominent Palestinian uprising leader imprisoned by Israel could soon emerge as the key to keeping fragile U.S.-led peace efforts alive.

According to several top officials, the Palestinians are seeking the freedom of Marwan Barghouti, who is serving multiple life sentences for his alleged role in killings of Israelis, as part of any plan to extend negotiations with Israel beyond an April deadline.

A release of Barghouti, a popular figure among Palestinians, could inject new life into the troubled peace process, boost embattled Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and even provide the Palestinians with a plausible successor to their 78-year-old leader. But Israel seems unlikely to approve the request, setting the stage for a possible breakdown in the talks.

Under heavy U.S. pressure, Israel and the Palestinians restarted negotiations last July, setting a nine-month target for wrapping up a comprehensive peace deal establishing a Palestinian state and ending a century of conflict. After realizing this was unrealistic, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry scaled back his ambitions and said he would aim

for a "framework" peace deal by the April deadline. With even that more modest goal in question, the sides are now searching for a formula that will allow the talks to continue.

The Palestinians have been skeptical about the chances of success, distrusting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. A prolonging of the talks means continuing shelving of their previous plans to press for recognition, even without a peace deal, with various international bodies.

The Palestinians have two demands for an extension: a freeze in Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem and the release of the most senior prisoners held by Israel, first and foremost Barghouti, two Palestinian officials told The Associated Press — senior official Nabil Shaath and Prisoner Affairs Minister Issa Qaraqi.

Israel was already forced to release dozens of prisoners convicted of deadly violence to make the current round of talks possible, but Barghouti remains jailed.

With Israel not expected to halt settlement construction, the Palestinians say they will drive a tough bargain on the prisoner issue. Palestinian officials and Barghouti's family said Abbas raised the issue of Barghouti's release in his

White House meeting this week with President Barack Obama.

"President Abbas demanded the release of the political leaders in jail like Marwan Barghouti, Ahmad Saadat and Fuad Shobaki," said Qaraqi, the prisoner affairs minister.

Barghouti's wife, Fadwa, said Abbas is "exerting his efforts to release Marwan and he is very serious about it."

Israeli officials said the matter has not yet come in the talks. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the peace efforts with the Palestinians.

Saadat heads a faction that killed an Israeli Cabinet minister in 2001 and is serving a 30-year sentence for allegedly participating in attacks. Shobaki, a former top Palestinian official, is the alleged mastermind of an attempt to smuggle a large shipment of weapons to the Palestinians on a ship that was intercepted by Israeli naval commandos in 2002.

But no prisoner is more prized by the Palestinians than Barghouti, who was a rising star in the dominant Fatah party before he was captured by Israeli troops in 2002. Israel says Barghouti, 54, was a leader of the violent uprising in the West Bank early last decade. He

is serving five life terms for alleged involvement in the deaths of four Israelis and a Greek monk.

The Palestinians say Barghouti is a politician who had no direct involvement in any of the killings.

Barghouti's release could be critical for Abbas. The Palestinian leader has seen his popularity plummet due to the lack of progress in peace talks. Winning Barghouti's freedom would be a huge moral victory for him.

And at almost 79, Abbas has recently acknowledged he cannot serve forever. Yet he has never designated a successor and is facing a rising challenge by an exiled former aide, Mohammed Dahlan. Barghouti is perhaps the only member of Fatah's next generation of leaders with the gravitas to confront that challenge. Palestinian analyst Hani al-Masri said Abbas desperately needs Barghouti's release, both to justify continued talks with Israel and to finally have a clear successor.

Fadwa Barghouti said her husband remains intimately involved in Palestinian affairs from his cell in an isolated bloc of the Hadarim prison in central Israel.

She said he shares a cell with two other men and is allowed to go outdoors into a courtyard twice a day — one hour each time — for exercise and a walk. She said he starts his day with exercise and then reads four Israeli newspapers. In addition to his native Arabic, Barghouti speaks Hebrew and English.

As a member of Fatah's leadership, Barghouti is briefed on the negotiations through his wife, who is in close contact with the Palestinian leadership and visits him twice a month.

"He was hoping that the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry would succeed in striking a deal based on the Israeli commitment to end the occupation on the 1967 borders," she said.

Barghouti, like other Palestinian leaders, wants to establish an independent state in all of the territories captured by Israel in the

1967 Mideast war: the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, she said. Several past Israeli offers, by more moderate governments than Netanyahu's, seemed to come close, but ultimately fell short.

The fate of the roughly 5,000 prisoners held by Israel is deeply emotional in Palestinian society. Virtually every Palestinian has a friend or relative who has served time in Israel, and the prisoners are revered as freedom fighters.

But the issue is equally emotional for Israelis, who see prisoners like Barghouti as terrorists.

At the outset of talks last July, Israel agreed to release 104 long-serving prisoners in four stages. But the fourth and final stage, scheduled later this month, is suddenly in jeopardy.

The previous releases, including dozens of men who were convicted in deadly attacks, have been accompanied by jubilant celebrations by Palestinians and attended by Abbas himself, angering many in Israel. For that reason, the release of Barghouti could become a contentious issue in the coming weeks. Israeli officials have rejected repeated attempts to include him in past prisoner releases.

Still, Israel could be tempted. During the peace talks of the 1990s, Barghouti was generally liked by the Israelis, had many friends among them, and was considered a moderate interlocutor. With many Israelis concerned that Abbas will be followed by more radical nationalists or Islamists, a Barghouti ascension, despite his supposed actions during the uprising, might not seem like the worst option.

Without a significant gesture, the Palestinians could soon walk away from the negotiating table.

Shaath gave a glimpse of what could lie ahead, saying the Palestinians would soon resume a campaign for U.N. recognition if Israel does not carry out the final scheduled prisoner release. □





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# Argentina accuses U.S., UK of hypocrisy over Crimea

THOMAS ADAMSON  
Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — Argentina's president said Wednesday that the U.S. and Britain displayed double standards with their positions on Crimea and the Falkland Islands, undermining efforts to preserve Ukraine's territorial integrity.

During a speech in Paris, Cristina Fernandez compared the referendum in the Black Sea peninsula next to Russia to last year's referendum by Falkland Islanders to remain a British territory. The southern Atlantic islands are known in Spanish as the "Islas Malvinas" and Argentina insists that Britain usurped them 180 years ago.

"Something that is fundamental for preserving world peace, for respecting international law, is to not have a double standard when it is time to make decisions. You can't be in favor of territorial integrity in Crimea and against territorial integrity with the Malvinas in Argentina," Fernandez said.

While most Latin American nations support Argentina's position on the islands, citizens of the Falkland Islands Government voted by 99.8 percent to remain British.

That referendum was unopposed

by the United States, which recognizes the U.K.'s "de-facto administration" of the islands while remaining officially neutral on the competing territorial claims.

She added that Crimea was once part of the former Soviet Union and that Western arguments had been weakened for not having supported Argentina's case in the Falkland dispute.

"We support territorial integrity — that's why we voted the way we voted in the Security Council," she said, referring to Argentina joining the council's rejection of the referendum in Crimea.

"We either respect the same principles for all, or we live in a world without law, where the most powerful get their way," Fernandez told journalists.

The issue of Crimea overshadowed a working lunch expected to focus on ways to tackle Argentina's growing international debt.

97 percent of voters in Sunday's referendum said they wanted to separate from Ukraine.

Argentina owes \$9.5 billion to the Paris Club, a group of the world's wealthiest countries that has in recent decades helped other nations with debt problems. □



Argentine President Cristina Fernandez speaks during a press conference with French President Francois Hollande at the Elysee Palace in Paris, Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Fernandez met French counterpart and discussed ways to tackle her country's growing international debt.

Associated Press

# Official: Haiti drought causes 'extreme emergency'

EVENS SANON  
TRENTON DANIEL  
Associated Press

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)** — A drought is causing an extreme emergency in northeast Haiti, wiping out sorely needed crops and livestock, an official said Tuesday.

Pierre Gary Mathieu of the government's National Coordination of Food Security told The Associated Press that the eight-month-long drought in the region has

caused the loss of two harvest seasons. It will take the area six months to recover. "That's a major problem," Mathieu said.

The hardship is especially evident in some schools where there's food for students but no water to cook. Other schools have neither food nor water, Mathieu said.

The usually arid area has seen some rain lately but not enough to replenish crops.

Government employees and aid workers plan to distribute seeds to farmers and food to others. Officials are due to meet this Thursday with international humanitarian workers to figure out how to coordinate a response, Mathieu said. The Famine Early Warning Systems Network, or FEWS NET, a U.S.-government financed program that tracks weather patterns, agricultural production and food prices in an effort

to offset famine, describes worrisome conditions for Haiti's northeast.

Until last November, rainfall was evenly distributed in most of the country's crop-producing areas during production cycles. But a second rainy season that normally begins in August didn't begin until two to three weeks later, and northeastern Haiti received very little of that rainfall.

"People need jobs immediately but they also need

food," Mathieu said.

The drought has also extended to other parts of the north, especially along the northwestern peninsula, FEWS NET reports. Farmers have had to travel farther to find drinking water.

The United Nations' World Food Program will send food rations this week for up to 120,000 people in the northwest, WFP spokesman Alejandro Lopez-Chicheri said. The kits consist of rice, beans and cooking oil. □



# Venezuelan student protesters seek to woo poor

**FRANK BAJAK**

**Associated Press**

**PETARE, Venezuela (AP) —**

The two students venture into one of Latin America's biggest slums for the first time, feeling scared and somewhat awkward. Their mission: to broaden support for their anti-government protest movement in the low-income barrios whose working poor the late President Hugo Chavez championed.

"Our families didn't want us to come up here," says Fernando Viscuna, a 21-year-old international commerce major at the Instituto Universitario de Nuevas Profesiones. "But if you want a better country, it's got to be done."

He and Jhony Pulido, a curly-haired 22-year-old economics student at Andres Bello University, are earnest foot soldiers in an incipient bridge-building effort by students whose five-week-old protest movement has badly convulsed the country and triggered a firm government crackdown.

The students have no illusions. If anything is to change, they need allies in the very districts that Chavez converted into bulwarks of support by investing tens of billions of dollars in oil income in generous social welfare programs. In two hours of knocking on doors and canvassing shop owners in the hilltop barrio of El Morro, accompanied by a local auto mechanics teacher allied with the opposition, the students get a polite but mostly cool reception. Most people barely engage them. Some, like 79-year-old retired plumber Valentin Castillo, openly dismiss them.

"You're killing a lot of people, torching cars. You're against us, against everyone," Castillo says, raising his voice.

"Exactly. We agree with you. We're against the blockades, too," says Viscuna, trying to get in a word.

But Castillo doesn't buy it. He mentions the slaying of National Guardsmen, the government's shock



**In this March 6, 2014 photo, a hill covered with low income houses is seen in Petare district, Caracas, Venezuela.**  
**Associated Press**

troops against protesters, by unknown gunmen — four have now been killed — and a motorcyclist who authorities say was killed by a steel cable stretched across a street by protesters.

"What are they looking for with this fight?" Castillo demands, doubting Viscuna's claim not to endorse violence or seek the overthrow of President Nicolas Maduro. Some people the students meet say they, too, are fed up enough with worsening food shortages, crippling inflation and unchecked violent crime — the very maladies that precipitated the unrest — and would take to the streets, too, but for their fear of pistol-packing pro-

only one in metropolitan Caracas.

Katherin Castillo, a 35-year-old single mother of five, and her neighbors are exhausted by the roulette that food shopping has become, of spending hours in

at the storefront canteen where she serves cheap breakfasts.

"I would go out and protest. But I'm afraid," Castillo says after the students leave. "The colectivos are abusing their power, and a



**In this Feb. 25, 2014 photo, a woman waves a Venezuelan flag next to a girl inside a poor apartment in downtown Caracas, Venezuela.**  
**Associated Press**



**In this Feb. 19, 2014 photo, an old man rests alone in a square downtown in Caracas, Venezuela.**  
**Associated Press**

government posses known as "colectivos" that have violently suppressed dissent. The colectivos have been implicated in at least six protest-related killings,

queues outside state-run supermarkets in hopes that flour, milk, cooking oil will show up at subsidized prices. On this morning, chicken is all Castillo has on offer

mother can't take risks."

The auto mechanics teacher who accompanies the students, Jorge Idrogo, says colectivos threw him to the street when he tried to protest at a busy Petare intersection on Feb. 17, his banner torn away while national police stood by idly. Such stories about colectivos abound. Earlier this month, colectivos twice prevented students from entering Petare to explain themselves in assemblies with residents in two districts, says Idrogo, 35.

"It's the only way around the government media blackout," he says. State-run media portray stu-

dent protesters as violent troublemakers bent on destroying the gains of 15 years of socialist-inspired advances. Student leader Alfredo Graffe of Simon Bolivar University said the movement has held more than a dozen informational meetings in working-class districts since late February, but says it is only safe for students to visit by daylight.

In the lower middle-class district of Caricuao in Caracas' mostly pro-government west, colectivos have broken up all five student-organized protests since mid-February. In other parts of the proletarian west, students have dared not even try.

Which is why the handbill that Idrogo presses into people's hands as he works his neighborhood with the students, his wife and two young children, stresses the shared problems of all Venezuelans in simple language spoken by stick figures in comic book-like balloons.

"I've been robbed."

"I don't know when the water will come back on."

"They didn't get the guy who killed him."

"Two months without obtaining milk."

The handbills that the students distribute use fancier words and list demands: The government must acknowledge that its economic policies are bankrupting the country. It must halt censorship, reverse violent crime that has made Venezuela a world leader in murder. But Venezuela's poor are, on the whole, more worried about losing the pensions, subsidies, education and basic health services gained under Chavez if the opposition were to come to power.

That's what University of Georgia sociology graduate student Rebecca Hanson says people tell her in the sprawling working-class district of Catia in Caracas' west, where she has been living on-and-off since 2009. "I think people are widely interpreting the protests as seeking to get Maduro out of office and nothing else." □





## Islanders and visitors enjoy Aruba's National Day at Paseo Herencia Mall

Aruba's Himno y Bandera Day, March 18, was beautifully celebrated in Palm Beach with a show of traditional music and dance in the Plaza Padu in Paseo Herencia Shopping Mall. Paseo management always takes great pains to arrange something special for all holidays, but Aruba's national observances receive particular attention. They feel it is important to visitors with an authentic taste of island culture and full understanding of the importance of these landmark dates.

MC Inga Dijkhoff explained the story of Aruba's "Status Aparte," the attainment of the island's autonomy within the Dutch Kingdom, and the impor-



tion to authentic island culture included special prices at many of the mall's restaurants, which sold their fare for Aruban florins instead of dollars, allowing a 45% discount on the menu. Favorite sweet treats were also made available at some of the venues specializing in desserts and native cuisine.

Many in the audience, including vacationers, were completely immersed in the spirit of the day. They enthusiastically displayed their Aruban flag regalia, whether it was shirts, scarves, hats or dresses, and thoroughly enjoyed "going native" to absorb and learn a bit of island history and culture offered by Paseo Herencia Shopping and Entertainment Center. Local y Turista a disfruta di e tremendo celebracion di dia di Himno y Bandera na Paseo Herencia

18 di Maart Paseo Herencia a celebra na e plaza Padu un anochi cu música tradicional di grupo típico alegre Cadushi largo y grupo di baile folklórico Santa Cruz. Na e plaza tawata tin diferente cos dushi di house of cake y un tremendo presentación di Aruba Aloe cu a introduci su producto nobo pa cuido di cara completamente traha na Aruba di Aloe. Tur presente a disfruta di un decoración único pa e dia tan special aki tanto local como turista a baila riba e diferente ritmonan di nos música tradicional.

Como invitado special cu e presencia di Miguel Genser y e ganador infantil di e competencia di himno y bandera.

Varios restaurant tawata tin specialnan pa e dia di Himno y Bandera y cinema a lansa e producción local "Abo So" cu a atrae hopi local.

Keda pendiente pa e actividad nan cu Paseo Herencia ta preparando pa luna di April. □



tance of the date March 18. It was on that day in 1948 that a petition for Aruban self rule was first submitted to Queen Juliana, during round table talks in Holland. The result of those talks was the entity of the Netherlands Antilles, with Curacao being the "capital" of the six islands.

Aruba finally did obtain the right to self rule and split off from the other Antillean islands in 1986. Ten years prior, a sense of self-identity and Aruban patriotism was enforced by the introduction of Aruba's own Himno (anthem) "Aruba Dushi Terra," written

by Rufo Wever and Juan Chabaya "Padu" Lampe, and the nation's own flag (Bandera), on March 18, 1976. The individuals and history involved in the establishment of autonomy and the encouragement of national pride and identity, including G.F. "Betico" Croes, are chronicled on the walls and halls of the Paseo Herencia shopping mall, to view at anytime.

A packed amphitheater thoroughly enjoyed a performance by Grupo Tipico Cadushi Largo on the main stage. The program featured a full roster of typical native music,



including many compositions by Padu Lampe. The audience was also treated to the island's famous "rib-

bon dance" by the Grupo Folklorico Santa Cruz, in traditional dress.

This fine introduc-



## TEAM ARUBA HELPS PDRA MAKE HISTORY WITH FIRST EVENT



UNION, S.C. March 17, 2014: The Professional Drag Racers Association is quickly approaching their inaugural series event. This PDRA Spring Open National Event will be held at Rockingham Dragway in Rockingham,

N.C. April 3-6. This locale is rather fitting since Rockingham Dragway has been home to many history-making moments over the life of professional eighth mile drag racing. Rockingham Dragway was home to the

site of the first ADRL ticket giveaway promotion at the storied Dragstock event. This marketing tactic, although initially scorned by many, proved to be highly successful. Building upon the strengths developed

over the last decade of professional eighth mile racing, the PDRA is also utilizing free ticket drives to promote their brand new series. Extreme Pro Stock Team Aruba has been dedicated to their eighth mile series since a Pro Stock class came available. Now, latching on to the 'by racers, for racers' approach of the PDRA, Team Aruba is increasing their commitment and involvement in helping this newborn organization succeed.

Although Team Aruba hails from their namesake country, their race shop is based out of Union, S.C., which makes the Spring Open their home stop on the PDRA tour. To help get the word out about this historical event, Team Aruba has partnered with the Union County Chamber to distribute 10,000 of the free event tickets.

"The Rockingham race is the easiest race for folks from our U.S. home base to attend," told team owner Ven Eman. "We hope that by distributing the PDRA's free tickets in Union and the surrounding areas, our local fans will come see us race. It's an excellent opportunity to be part of history in the making at the

first-ever PDRA race.

"We are glad that the PDRA has continued the free ticket distribution," added Eman. "When this technique has been used in the past, the stands are full. Team Aruba is going to do everything in our efforts to make sure that's the case for the Spring Open. Tickets are available to fans everywhere - even Aruba!"

Tickets are available in most stores in the town of Union and also through the Union County Chamber of Commerce and its members.

"We're very excited to run the PDRA series and to help make this organization a success," added Trevor Eman, driver of the Aruba.com Mustang. "We hope to see all our North and South Carolina Team Aruba fans at the Spring Open."

Keep up with Team Aruba on Facebook and Twitter. Find race results, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba! For more on your Aruba vacation visit [www.Aruba.com](http://www.Aruba.com) and [www.Destination-Magazines.com](http://www.Destination-Magazines.com). Visit [www.PDRA660.com](http://www.PDRA660.com) and become part of future racing. □

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The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10 to 19 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Dan and Mrs. Kathy Mazzaferro from Swampscott Mass., Mr. Les Dole and Mrs. Janice Butterfield from Methuen MA., and Mr. Andy and Mrs. Janet Pace from Pearland Texas. The honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restau-



rants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Surf Club is like being home for them.

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt and Mr. John v/d Linden representing the Marriott Surf Club. □



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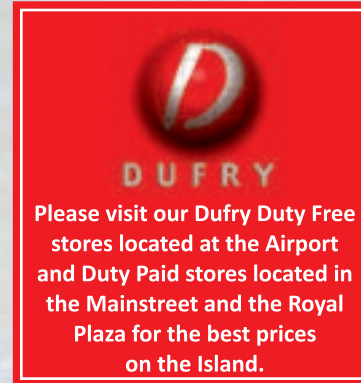
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-  Right of way ahead
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-  No stopping or parking
-  One way road  
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-  Right of way road
-  End of right of way road
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right of way
-  Stop. Right of way ahead
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-  No Left turn
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## 1. Promenade



## 2. DUFRY







## Rivalry gets early kick start in 2014 MLB season

**DENNIS PASSA**  
AP Sports Writer

**SYDNEY (AP)** — Suspensions to eight players and a controversial NL West-clinching swimming pool incident last season helped expand a growing rivalry between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Arizona Diamondbacks.

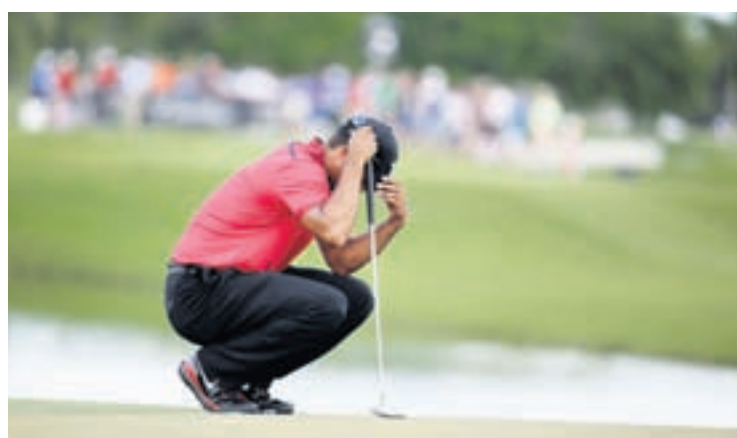
But Dodgers manager Don Mattingly says he doesn't expect any serious animosity to carry over from last year when the teams meet to open the major league season Saturday and Sunday at the Sydney Cricket Ground. But he couldn't rule it out either.

The suspensions came after a brawl last June, and the incident was credited with igniting the Dodgers' run that moved them to the division title. Then when the Dodgers clinched the division crown in Arizona, they upset many Diamondbacks player by celebrating in the Chase Field swimming pool.



The Los Angeles Dodgers' Adrian Gonzalez, left, and The Arizona Diamondbacks' Paul Goldschmidt try swinging cricket bats at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney, Tuesday, March 18, 2014.  
Associated Press

*Continued on Page 20*



Tiger Woods bows his head on the fourth green during the final round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament on Sunday, March 9, 2014, in Doral, Fla. Woods made bogey on the hole.  
Associated Press

**DOUG FERGUSON**  
AP Golf Writer

**ORLANDO, Florida (AP)** — The four-time Masters champion has an ailing back, and he's been having it checked out even more regularly the last two weeks. It has reached the

point that he is planning surgery after the Masters to see if he can get more comfortable playing golf. Tiger Woods?

No, that would be Arnold Palmer. "The doctors have seen things that they think they might be able to do

## Bay Hill will have to go on without Tiger Woods

something about," Palmer said Wednesday at Bay Hill. "And I'm at this point about a month away from having an operation on my back to help me enjoy the game a little more."

Palmer can't speak for Woods, who is unable to defend his title this week in the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

A year ago at Bay Hill, all the talk was that Woods was back. He won Bay Hill to return to No. 1 in the world for the first time in more than two years.

Now all the talk is about Woods' back.

He withdrew with five holes to play in the Honda Classic. His back bothered him the following week at Doral, and then flared up on Sunday as Woods posted a 78, the highest final-round score of his career. After a week off, the lower back pain was persistent enough that Woods called the 84-year-old tournament host to tell him he couldn't defend his title in the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

"He didn't tell me how bad his back is. I don't think he knows how bad his back is," Palmer said. "I think

he's listening to the doctors. And he mentioned that they're saying that he needs to give it a bit of a rest and see if he can work it out. He was very nice. And I, of course, have great sympathy for the fact that he tried like hell to come here and play. And I appreciate that and the fact that he called."

The field at Bay Hill is not as strong as usual, starting with the absence of Woods, the No. 1 player in the world and an eight-time winner of this event.

*Continued on Page 22*



# Murray and Lendl end coaching relationship

**SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

**AP Sports Writer**

**LONDON (AP)** — Following a fruitful two-year relationship, Wimbledon champion Andy Murray has parted ways with coach Ivan Lendl — the man who turned him from a four-time Grand Slam runner-up into a two-time major champion. Murray and Lendl announced their decision on the British player's blog on Wednesday, a few days after Murray lost in the fourth round at Indian Wells.

"I'm eternally grateful to Ivan for all his hard work over the past two years, the most successful of my career so far," said Murray, who returned from back surgery this season. "As a team, we've learned a lot and it will definitely be of benefit in the future. I'll take some time with the team to consider the next steps and how we progress from here." With Lendl, Murray won Olympic gold in London in 2012 and the U.S. Open title later the same year. In 2013, he became the first British man to triumph at Wimbledon in 77 years.

Before winning the U.S. Open, Murray was 0-4 in Grand Slam finals.

Only one other man in the Open era, which began in 1968, lost his first four major titles matches: Lendl. The Czech-born baseline player then went on to win eight Grand Slam singles titles during a 17-year career, spending 270 weeks at No. 1 in the world rankings.

Lendl first got involved with Murray in December 2011. Despite a lack of coaching experience, Lendl immediately struck a chord with his protegee as Murray made it to the Wimbledon final, where he lost to Roger Federer in four sets.

Murray's breakthrough came a month later when he beat Federer in the Olympic final at the All England Club. He then defeated defending champion Novak Djokovic in the final at Flushing Meadows to win his first Grand Slam singles title. "Working with Andy over the last two years has been a fantastic experience for me," Lendl said. "He is a first class guy. Having helped him achieve his goal of winning major titles, I feel like it is time for me to concentrate on some of my own projects moving forward including playing more events around the world which I am really enjoying.



In this Jan. 19, 2014 file photo, Andy Murray of Britain, right, chats with his coach Ivan Lendl during a training session at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia. Associated Press

"I will always be in Andy's corner and wish him nothing but great success as he too goes into a new phase of his career."

Lendl has recently played exhibitions in Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Nashville, Charlotte and London. He has also been giving clin-

ics in the Canary Islands as well as opening new courts in Bluffton, South Carolina, at the Ivan Lendl Junior Tennis Academy.

Murray will be defending his Miami title next week before leading Britain in the quarterfinals of the Davis Cup next month against Italy. □

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**NBA Capsules**

# LeBron's 43 lead Heat over Cavaliers

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — LeBron James scored 43 points — 25 in a bewildering first-quarter shooting display — and Chris Bosh added 21, leading the Miami Heat to a 100-96 win Tuesday over the Cleveland Cavaliers, who played their first game without injured All-Star guard Kyrie Irving.

James added two crucial blocks and made six free throws in the final two minutes and Bosh added a key rejection to lead the Heat to just their third win in eight games.

Miami's Dwyane Wade sat out resting his knees, but the Heat's two other megastars put away the Cavs.

Jarrett Jack scored 22 and Dion Waiters added 17 and 11 assists for Cleveland, which was also without forward Luol Deng (sprained ankle). Irving is expected to miss two weeks with a



**Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) drives around Cleveland Cavaliers' Spencer Hawes (32) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 18, 2014, in Cleveland.**  
Associated Press

strained biceps tendon, an injury that further damages the Cavs' fading playoff hopes.

HAWKS 118, RAPTORS 113, OT

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Jeff Teague equaled his career best with 34 points and Paul Millsap had the first triple-double of his career as the Hawks extended their longest winning streak of the season to five in a row, beating the Raptors.

Millsap had 19 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists to lead the Hawks, who have bounced back after losing 14 of 15 to strengthen their hold on the final playoff spot in the East.

The Hawks overcame an early 13-point deficit in a game that went back and forth in the final quarter. Millsap missed a chance to win it at the end of regulation, but Teague knocked

down four free throws in the closing seconds to clinch it for Atlanta.

**KINGS 117, WIZARDS 111, OT SACRAMENTO, California (AP)** — Isaiah Thomas had his first career triple double with 24 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to help the Kings beat the Wizards.

DeMarcus Cousins and Rudy Gay each added 24 points for the Kings, who rallied in the fourth to send the game into overtime and snapped a two-game losing streak.

It was a rare loss for the Wizards, who had won 10 of 13 games before falling to the Kings for the fourth straight time at Sleep Train Arena.

Bradley Beal had 19 points and Marcin Gortat had 19 points and 14 rebounds for the Wizards. They had won six of their previous seven road games. Drew Gooden scored 18 points and John Wall had 14 before fouling out in overtime.

TRAIL BLAZERS 120, BUCKS 115, OT

**PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)** — Wesley Matthews had 26 points, including a key 3-pointer in overtime, as the Trail Blazers overcame the tenacious Bucks.

Robin Lopez added 15 points and 14 rebounds for the Blazers, who had been in a funk with losses in five of their last six games. Portland (44-24) has also struggled with the absence of injured forward LaMarcus Aldridge.

Brandon Knight had 24 points and Ramon Sessions added a season-high 23 for Milwaukee, which lost its fifth straight. The Bucks (13-55) are just 2-24 against the Western Conference.

Despite the worst record in the NBA, the Bucks gave the Blazers trouble for most of the game. There were 23 lead changes in regulation, and neither team was able to pull ahead by double digits.

**WARRIORS 103, MAGIC 89 OAKLAND, California (AP)** — Stephen Curry had 23 points and five assists, and Klay Thompson scored 20 points as the undermanned Warriors overwhelmed the Magic. □

## 2014 MLB

*Continued from Page 18*

"Kirk (Gibson, Diamondbacks manager,) talked about it a bit yesterday," Mattingly said. "It's a rivalry when you play somebody 19 times a year in your own division. Those games get heated."

"I don't feel like there is going to be (problems) .... maybe there is. These guys play hard, and they're tough. For us, what happened last year is over and we should move forward and play."

Gibson was more or less conciliatory when asked about the brewing rivalry on Tuesday, preferring to talk about Australia as the location for his 1985 honeymoon "and that worked out pretty good, so I'm hoping this does. We're ready to go."

Mattingly said people don't think of baseball as a tough physical sport "in terms of football, hockey or in this country, rugby."

"Baseball is more mental toughness," he added. "Night in and night out, the travel, getting in late, all kinds of different things you

deal with."

And he feels like the Dodgers match up.

"We feel like we're tough," Mattingly said. "We got down in the division 10 games at one point, surviving that and then ended up winning by 10 or 11. When you love to play, it's easier to get ready to play. I think we've got guys who love playing."

Mattingly said first baseman Paul Goldschmidt typified the toughness of the Diamondbacks.

"He's kind of gotten to be a beast, hard to deal with, tough to pitch to," Mattingly said. "He's really killed us. He's just getting to be a tough and tougher out. We treat him with a lot of respect."

On Tuesday, Goldschmidt said of the rivalry: "We play each other a lot. Guys aren't going to be worried about being laid back."

Both teams held workouts Wednesday, and some members of the Dodgers went to Bondi Beach to help out local surf lifesavers. First-game starter Clayton Kershaw, celebrating his 26th birthday Wednesday, was photographed with his wife cuddling a kangaroo and received a



**The Los Angeles Dodgers' manager Don Mattingly listens to a question during a press conference at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Sydney Tuesday, March 18, 2014. The MLB season-opening two-game series between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Arizona Diamondbacks in Sydney will be played this weekend.**  
Associated Press

cake on the SCG field. On Thursday, the Dodgers will play Team Australia in an exhibition game and the Diamondbacks provide the opposition against Australia on Friday.

"We won't use any top-line pitchers in that game," Mattingly said of the exhibition. "We'll try to make sure we won't have any-one over-exposed."

In injury news, Mattingly said he didn't expect a right shoulder injury to Dodgers left fielder Carl Crawford during a minor league game Tuesday to

be serious. Crawford left the game after the injury.

Mattingly said no MRI exams or other scans were scheduled, "but that could change." Crawford is one of four Dodgers left behind at Camelback Ranch in Phoenix because his fiancée is about to give birth.

"It sounds like he had a checked swing, and felt a little something in his shoulder," Mattingly said. "He stopped right there. He had a planned day off tomorrow, and we expect him to play the day after." □



## NHL Capsules

# Bruins roll to 10th straight win, beat Devils 4-2

**NEWARK, New Jersey (AP)**

— Brad Marchand and Jarome Iginla scored in a 59-second span early in the second period as the Boston Bruins beat the New Jersey Devils 4-2 on Tuesday for their 10th straight win.

Patrice Bergeron and Chris Kelly also scored and Chad Johnson made 20 saves as the Eastern Conference leaders hurt the Devils' postseason hopes by sending them to their third straight loss.

The 10-game winning streak ties Anaheim for the NHL's longest this season. It is the Bruins' longest since a 10-game run in November 2011, and four shy of the franchise record set in 1929-30.

Patrik Elias and Travis Zajac scored for the Devils, who are now in danger of missing the playoffs for the second straight year and third time in four. Martin Brodeur made 27 saves.

**RANGERS 8, SENATORS 4**  
**OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)** — Henrik Lundqvist made 35 saves to become the Rangers' winningest goalie and New York used a four-goal second period to cruise past the Ottawa Senators.

Lundqvist, who made 16 of his saves in the second period, has 302 victories — one more than Mike Richter. He is also one shutout shy of 50 for his career.

Derick Brassard, Benoit Pouliot, John Moore and Ryan McDonagh all scored in the second, with the final three coming less than four minutes apart late in the period. Brassard and Rick Nash each finished with two goals.

Mike Hoffman, Mika Zibanejad, Milan Michalek and Bobby Ryan scored for the Senators, who have lost four straight and eight of 10.

**CANADIENS 6, AVALANCHE 3**

**MONTREAL (AP)** — Thomas Vanek had a hat trick to lift Montreal over the Colorado Avalanche in former Canadiens great Patrick



**New Jersey Devils goalie Martin Brodeur, center, gets tangled between Boston Bruins' Chris Kelly, left, and Devils' Michael Ryder on a play in which Kelly scored a goal during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, March 18, 2014, in Newark, N.J. The Bruins won 4-2.**

Associated Press

Roy's first game at the Bell Centre as an NHL head coach.

Brandon Prust, who left the game late in the first period with an injury, returned to score a goal and set up one by Travis Moen for Montreal, which won its third game in a row.

Vanek got his first goal in six games since he was acquired in a trade deadline deal.

Trailing by two goals, Roy pulled goalie Jean-Sebastien Giguere with 2:20 left to play, but Dale Weise scored into the empty net.

Rookie Nathan MacKinnon scored a highlight-reel goal and Max Talbot and Jamie McGinn also scored for the Avalanche, who lost for only the third time in 10 games.

**WILD 6, ISLANDERS 0**  
**UNIONDALE, New York (AP)**

— Matt Moulson scored twice and had three points in his first game against the Islanders since being traded earlier this season, and Ilya Bryzgalov was solid in making 36 saves as the Minnesota Wild made the most of 22 shots.

Moulson, an impending free agent dealt by the Islanders to Buffalo in October before being shipped to Minnesota at the trade

deadline, scored the first of the Wild's two goals in the opening period and their third in the final frame.

Mikko Koivu had three assists to move past Marian Gaborik for the most points in Wild history with 438.

Bryzgalov earned his second shutout of the season and 32nd in the NHL.

**PENGUINS 5, STARS 1**  
**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Sidney Crosby scored his 32nd and 33rd goals of the season and picked up an assist as Pittsburgh's top line led the way in a victory over Dallas.

Lee Stempniak added his first goal since being acquired from Calgary two weeks ago and finished with two assists while Chris Kunitz had a goal and an assist in his return from a lower-body injury. Brandon Sutter scored a late short-handed goal and Jeff Zatkoff stopped 32 shots to win for the 11th time in his past 14 games.

Tyler Seguin scored his 31st goal for the Stars. Kari Lehtonen made 27 saves, but Dallas slumped again on the road.

**HURRICANES 3, BLUE JACKETS 1**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — Anton Khudobin made a career-high 46 saves and

Andrei Loktionov and Patrick Dwyer each had a goal and an assist as the Carolina Hurricanes topped the Columbus Blue Jackets.

Nathan Gerbe also scored, and Jay Harrison added two assists for the Hurricanes, who were criticized by coach Kirk Muller after weekend losses to Boston and Edmonton. Carolina

was close to a wild-card spot on Feb. 7, but the team has struggled since. They entered the game having lost nine of 12 and are likely going to miss the postseason for the fifth straight season.

Boone Jenner scored for Columbus, which outshot the Hurricanes 19-0 in the third period. □

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THURS 8:15 | 9:10  
FRI 5:15 | 6:10 | 8:15 | 9:10 | 11:15  
SAT 2:15 | 3:10 | 5:15 | 6:10 | 8:15 | 9:10 | 11:15  
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 3:10 | 5:15 | 6:10 | 8:15 | 9:10  
MON - WED 5:15 | 6:10 | 8:15 | 9:10

**ON TWO SCREENS**

**NEED FOR SPEED**  
PG-13

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
2D VERSION  
MON - THURS 8:00  
FRI 8:00 | 10:40  
SAT 2:30 | 8:00 | 10:40  
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 8:00

3D VERSION  
MON - THURS 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20  
FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20  
SAT 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20  
SUN & HOL 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

**ON TWO SCREENS**

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**KHUMBA**  
NR

MON - THURS 5:50  
FRI 5:50  
SAT 5:50  
SUN & HOL 5:50

**300: RISE OF AN EMPIRE**  
R

MON - THURS 4:45 | 7:10 | 9:35  
FRI 4:45 | 7:10 | 9:35 | 12:00  
SAT 2:20 | 4:45 | 7:10 | 9:35 | 12:00  
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:45 | 7:10 | 9:35

**MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN**  
PG

MON - THURS 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30  
FRI 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30 | 10:40  
SAT 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30 | 10:40  
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:10 | 6:20 | 8:30

**LIAM NEESON | JULIANNE MOORE**

**NON-STOP**  
PG-13

MON - THURS 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30  
FRI 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30 | 11:55  
SAT 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30 | 11:55  
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30

**ICE CUBE | KEVIN HART**

**Ride Along**  
PG-13

MON - THURS 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:35  
FRI 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55  
SAT 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55  
SUN & HOL 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:35

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# Serena readies for Miami tourney near home

**KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP)** — Serena Williams will certainly be in a comfort zone when she opens the defense of her Sony Open title this week.

Williams is a six-time winner of the Florida event, collecting more trophies than at any other tournament. That surpasses the five titles won at three of four Grand Slam events — the Australian Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open.

What's more, the tournament is held not far from where the top-ranked player has lived since she was a preteen. While she also spends many weeks training in Paris, nearby Palm Beach County remains close to her heart.

"I've been waiting on this and it feels good to be back here," Williams said Tuesday. "It is home. It feels home."

Williams opens on Thursday against Yaroslava Shvedova of Kazakhstan, who beat 2010 French

Open champion Francesca Schiavone of Italy 6-4, 6-2 in the first round on Tuesday.

"I love my fans and love the opportunity to be able to play for them," Williams said of the South Florida crowds.

She's entering her fourth tournament of the year after winning the Brisbane title in January against Victoria Azarenka.

However, a bad back has taken its toll. She lost in the fourth round of the Australian Open to Ana Ivanovic, and in Dubai lost in the semifinals to 23rd-ranked Alize Cornet. Williams had insisted the back was better, but she clearly had trouble reaching up for her serve against the Frenchwoman.

"The back is good," she said, smiling. "It's much better. It's really good, actually. I've been doing tons of treatment to make sure it stays loose, so I don't have any prob-



Serena Williams smiles as she speaks during an interview, Tuesday, March 18, 2014 in Key Biscayne, Fla. **Associated Press**

lems."

The 32-year-old Williams, a winner of 58 career titles, is considered the best of her generation, if not of all time.

Her achievements tend to lead to the assump-

tion that whenever she plays, she's going to win. While it's not a given, she doesn't mind having that kind of burden.

"There is a tremendous amount of pressure when you step on the court,"

Williams said. "It's bigger news for me to lose than it is to win. Usually it's big, front cover news if I lose."

"But I don't look at it as pressure. Billie Jean King always told me, 'pressure is a privilege.'" □

## Bay Hill

*Continued from Page 18*

Match Play champion Jason Day (No. 4 in the world) pulled out with recurring pain in his thumb, and Phil Mickelson (No. 5) is not playing this year.

Not that it would change the dynamics of what already has been a peculiar season. With 18 tournaments in the books since the official start of the season in October, Zach Johnson is the only player to win a PGA Tour event while ranked among the top 10 in the world.

Jimmy Walker has won three times. Patrick Reed, who feels like No. 5 but who still is only No. 20, has two victories, including a World Golf Championship.

The Masters is three weeks away. Is it time for the stars to come out?

"Hopefully, this one does," Masters champion Adam Scott said, pointing to himself with a laugh. "But as far as unexpected winners, it seems to me that's happening more

and more in golf. There are more and more guys breaking through, putting in a lot of hard work and getting what they deserve. So I think we've seen a bit of a shift in the game over the last couple of years - a lot less domination by top players." Graeme McDowell, a runner-up to Woods two years at Bay Hill, said he can understand what the No. 1 player is going through with injuries. He also believes that competition might be an even larger obstacle than his health for Woods to break Jack Nicklaus' record in the majors. Woods is at 14, four short of tying Nicklaus. "He's a physical player who creates a lot of speed and a lot of power and his body is starting to struggle a little bit, no doubt about it," McDowell said. "But I'm sure he'll fix it. ... But we all talk about how good the fields are nowadays. Taking Tiger's fitness and physicality out of it, winning major championships is getting harder and harder for everyone - including the best player maybe that's ever lived in



Patrick Reed watches his shot on the 11th hole during the final round of the Cadillac Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 9, 2014, in Doral, Fla. **Associated Press**

Tiger."

Scott already had one chance at Doral to try to get to No. 1 in the world. Even if the Australian were

to win this week, he would not go to No. 1, though a combination of winning and the math involved in the world ranking would

put him there before the Masters.

For now, there is at least one less star to worry about this week - Woods. □



# IBM's Watson to help in brain cancer research

BREE FOWLER

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — IBM is teaming up with the New York Genome Center to help fight brain cancer.

The company said Wednesday that its Watson cloud computing system will be used in partnership with a New York-based genetic research center to help develop treatments for glioblastoma, the most common type of brain cancer in U.S. adults.

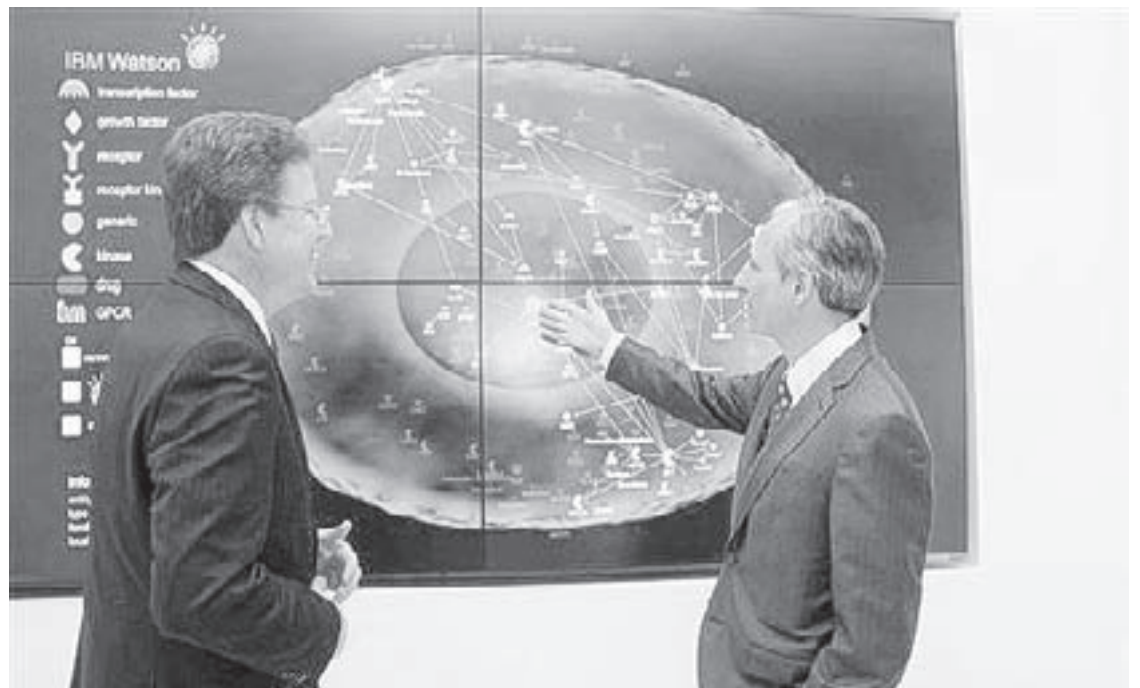
"Time definitely is not on your side when you have glioblastoma and that's where Watson comes in," Dr. Robert Darnell, New York Genome's president, CEO and scientific director, said at a Wednesday event announcing the deal.

Glioblastoma is an extremely aggressive form of cancer. The median survival rate is 12 to 14 months and the disease kills about 13,000 people each year. As part of the clinical trial, New York Genome Center, a nonprofit consortium of academic, medical and industry officials, will sequence the DNA of glioblastoma patients, then

use Watson to combine that data with clinical information to help determine the best way to treat each patient.

What makes Watson unique is that it isn't programmed like most computers. Instead of relying on the information that's put into it, Watson learns by "reading" vast amounts of information and combining it with the results of previous work to find answers to problems. Those characteristics make Watson ideal for extremely data-heavy work in fields such as health care and finance.

The partnership also comes at a time when IBM is increasing its focus on Watson and other cloud-based software services, as it moves further away from its computer hardware roots. Earlier this year, IBM announced it would invest \$1 billion to give Watson its own business division and headquarters in New York City. John Kelly, a senior vice president and director of IBM Research, says there's a vast amount of data involved in DNA sequencing, which then must be combined with all of



Dr. John E. Kelly III, Senior Vice President and Director of IBM Research and Dr. Robert Darnell, President, CEO and Scientific Director of the New York Genome Center announce collaboration with IBM Watson to advance genomic medicine. Associated Press

the clinical data involved in a particular patient's case. The resulting pool of information is so big that it's impossible for people to deal with. "This is sort of big data on steroids," Kelly says. Darnell says the hope is that Watson will speed up the time it takes for physicians to determine a patient's treatment plan.

For instance, if Watson determines that a child's leukemia has genetic traits

similar to melanoma, a melanoma drug might be successful in shrinking that child's tumor, he says.

In addition, while a team of top physicians and researchers could do the same work, though at a slower pace, there aren't enough resources to help everyone. But Watson has the potential to be scalable and help many more people, Darnell says.

"This is the proverbial nee-

dle in the haystack and the haystack is enormous," Kelly says. "Watson can do in seconds what would take people years. And we can get it down to a really personal level."

The doctors working on the project hope to start with 20 brain cancer patients, sequence their DNA and then run the information through Watson to figure out the best ways to treat them, Darnell says. □

# Sony unveils virtual reality headset for PS4

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Sony is getting into the virtual reality business.

The Japanese electronics and gaming giant unveiled a prototype virtual reality headset to be used in conjunction with its PlayStation 4 video game console during a Tuesday talk at the Game Developers Conference.

Shuhei Yoshida, president of Sony Computer Entertainment Worldwide Studios, showed off the slick black-and-white headset at the annual gathering of game designers. He said Sony has been working on the technology for more than three years.

The adjustable device is codenamed Project Morpheus and features a head-mounted display with 1080p resolution and

a 90-degree field of view. Sensors built into the headset can track a wearer's head movement in concert with a PS4 camera.

"This prototype is by no means final," said Yoshida. "We will continue to work on this to improve it, but we believe it's a good representation of how PlayStation will deliver VR."

Anton Mikhailov, a senior software engineer working on Project Morpheus, said the current version of the technology must be attached to a PS4 console with a cord that's about 15 feet (4.5 meters) long, and users' virtual perspectives can be simultaneously broadcast on a television screen. "The experience can be shared, and that's only going to allow it to spread," said Mikhailov. "I think that's going to be the key. Once people see



The PlayStation 4 virtual reality headset Project Morpheus is shown on stage as Richard Marks, senior director of research and development at Sony Computer Entertainment America, answers questions at the Game Developers Conference 2014 in San Francisco, Tuesday, March 18, 2014. Associated Press

someone else interacting in VR, they're going to want to put it on and try it next." Mikhailov said users will be able to interact with the virtual world displayed on the headset with the gesture-detecting PlayStation Move controller, as

well as the standard DualShock 4. He declined to specify when the headset would be released or how much it would cost.

Project Morpheus will be available for demonstration beginning Wednesday for conference attendees

on the conference's expo floor with four games: diving cage simulator "The Deep," medieval combat game "The Castle," sci-fi dogfighter "EVE: Valkyrie" and a VR rendition of the stealthy action-adventure title "Thief."

While Sony Corp. has released other head-mounted display units, Project Morpheus marks the company's first foray into VR with PlayStation. Sony's headset is similar to the Oculus Rift, a VR device currently in development by the Irvine, California-based startup Oculus VR.

Both devices use head tracking to reduce queasiness when users peek around a virtual landscape, and they look more like ski goggles than the bulky gaming helmets of the 1990s that usually left users with headaches. □



# UK austerity to stay despite growth pick-up

**DANICA KIRKA**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — Austerity will remain the U.K. government's mantra, Treasury chief George Osborne said Wednesday — even as he lauded the stronger than expected economic recovery.

With one eye on the general election in just over a year, Osborne sought to sweeten his budget statement with an effective tax cut for all and sweeping changes to the country's pensions and savings. But there were no big giveaways, with promises like that likely for the run-up to the election.

"Faster growth alone will not balance the books," he said. "Securing Britain's economic future means there will have to be more hard decisions, more cuts." In perhaps his most radical announcement, Osborne has loosened the rules on savings plans for retirement accounts — a measure that may appeal to older voters, many of whom form the base of his Conservative Party and are being tempted by the rival, U.K. Independence Party. Other tax changes, such as raising the level at which individuals pay tax, should, he hopes, appeal to all.

The big hope for the Conservatives, who have governed for four years with



**Britain's Chancellor George Osborne poses for the media with the traditional red dispatch box outside his official residence at 11 Downing Street in London, as he departs to deliver his annual budget speech to the House of Commons, Wednesday, March 19, 2014.**

**Associated Press**

the Liberal Democrats, is that the U.K.'s recent economic rebound will bear dividends at the ballot box. The main economic purpose of the coalition government has been to get the public finances into shape after they were savaged by an acute banking crisis and the country's deepest recession since World War II.

Following a raft of up-

grades to the U.K.'s economic outlook, Osborne said independent forecasts from the Office of Budget Responsibility point to 2.7 percent growth this year, up from the previous 2.4 percent prediction.

In fact, Osborne said the prediction is that the U.K. economy will have finally recovered the output lost during the recession later this year. Osborne also lauded forecasts that the

U.K.'s budget deficit will narrow and actually turn to a small surplus by 2018/19. But Ed Miliband, the leader of the opposition Labour Party, said the government had failed to achieve the economic targets it set when coming to power in 2010, particularly on the deficit-reduction front, and quickly challenged claims the budget will help those struggling with tough economic times.

The annual budget statement is a set-piece event in the British political calendar and is often laced with measures designed to offer a talking point to Britons up and down the land.

Osborne's statement was no different. A cut in the tax on beer could well raise a cheer in the pub while a freeze on the duty paid on gasoline will certainly be met with relief at the pump.

Another attempt to grab the headlines was a cut in the tax on bingo from 20 percent to 10 percent. Bingo has many female fans in Britain, and the measure could be seen as an effort to appeal to female voters, particularly those at the bottom end of the income scale. Osborne also promised that taxes on long haul flights would become uniform, ending an anomaly that gave Hawaii an advantage over the Caribbean, for example.

And in a move that will invoke nostalgia, Osborne showcased plans to replace the pound coin with a 12-sided coin made with two separate metals. It resembles a "threepenny bit," which circulated in Britain from 1937-1971.

Miliband seized upon the change to pound home the point that the fruits of recovery from the Great Recession were not being spread equally. □

## EMarketer sees 2014 mobile ad spending at \$31.5B

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Research firm eMarketer says it expects worldwide spending on mobile advertising to reach \$31.5 billion this year, a 75 percent increase from 2013.

By the end of this year, eMarketer says mobile will account for nearly a quarter of total digital ad spending.

Mobile ad spending has been growing fast, mainly due to ad revenue growth at Facebook Inc. and Google Inc. In 2013, mobile ad spending more than doubled, to nearly \$18 billion from \$8.8 billion in 2012. Facebook and Google together saw an increase of \$6.9 billion in mobile ad revenue.

EMarketer expects Facebook's share of the mobile ad market to grow to 21.7 percent this year from 17.5 percent in 2013, taking a bite out of Google's share, though Google remains No. 1. □

## JPMorgan selling physical commodities business

**NEW YORK (AP)** — JPMorgan said on Wednesday that it has made a deal to sell its physical commodities business for \$3.5 billion, after new regulations crimped its ability to control power plants, warehouses, and oil refineries.

If it's approved by regulators, the deal would put the commodities business in the hands of energy and commodities trading company Mercuria Energy Group Ltd.

Big banks have long profited from price swings in

metals, energy, and other commodities. But some had branched out into owning physical facilities. Last summer JPMorgan said that the possibility of new regulations on whether banks could continue to do that was a factor behind its decision to consider selling some of its physical commodities business, which includes metals and energy assets.

JPMorgan Chase & Co. said Wednesday that after the sale it will still provide traditional banking ac-

tivities in the commodities markets. It will also continue to make markets, provide liquidity and risk management and offer advice to global companies and institutions.

The deal, which is not expected to have a material impact on JPMorgan's earnings, is targeted to close in the third quarter.

JPMorgan shares rose 13 cents to \$58.19 in morning trading. Its shares have risen more than 18 percent over the past year. □



# So what? Small business unfazed by paid sick time

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — As more cities mandate paid sick days for workers, the reaction from many small businesses is a big, so what?

New York City and two New Jersey cities, Jersey City and Newark, are the latest to require employers to give workers paid time off when they're ill or to care for sick relatives. San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, D.C., Portland, Ore. and Connecticut already had sick leave laws.

Similar legislation elsewhere has been a bust because of opposition from business groups and some public officials. In Philadelphia, for instance, Mayor Michael Nutter has vetoed sick leave bills twice saying they threaten jobs and make the city less attractive to new business. The Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce also lobbied against the laws because of worries that businesses would flee. And the National Federation of Independent Business says when you add

government-mandated sick leave to the minimum wage increases that are happening in some states, it equals rising labor costs for small businesses.

But preliminary research shows the laws have little, if any, downside for profits. And many small businesses say they don't find complying with the laws a burden. Many already gave employees paid sick time before the laws were passed. And having paid sick time makes employees happy. "If you're sick and can't make it into work, it gives you security," says Leonardo Lima, who works for an electronics repair shop in New York. He was getting paid sick leave before the law was passed.

Research in Connecticut, whose sick leave law went into effect in 2012, shows a minimal financial effect. A report released this month by the Center for Economic and Policy Research and the City University of New York's Murphy Institute said many of the Connecticut businesses already had



In this Friday, Jan. 18 2013 file photo, activists hold signs during a rally at New York's City Hall to call for immediate action on paid sick days legislation in light of the continued spread of the flu. Associated Press

paid sick leave. Nearly 47 percent of 251 companies surveyed said the law hadn't affected costs. Only 6.5 percent said costs rose 5 percent or more. And 60 percent said keeping records was somewhat or very easy. The think tank's research tends to support

paid time off for workers, including family and medical leave. Ray Fitzgibbon expected Seattle's law, which took effect in September 2012, to create a nightmare for his Synergy HomeCare business, but he's been able to afford paying a sick worker and a

replacement. "I had used the arithmetic based on a worst-case scenario and it was scary. And in hindsight, it just hasn't turned out like that," he says.

Washington, D.C.'s law, which took effect in 2008, hasn't prompted an exodus of companies. □

# Higher interest rates talk spooks stocks

KEN SWEET  
AP Markets Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The message investors took away from the Federal Reserve on Wednesday was that higher interest rates were coming, and soon. That sent stocks and gold prices lower and bond yields sharply higher.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 114.02 points, or 0.7 percent, to 16,222.17. The Dow fell as much as 209 points before erasing some of its loss.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 11.48 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,860.77 and the Nasdaq composite lost 25.71 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,307.60. The Fed voted to cut its monthly bond purchases from \$65 billion to \$55 billion, in line with what analysts were expecting. Despite severe winter weather

in January and February, the Fed said economy had recovered enough for it to continue reducing the bond buys, which are aimed at keeping long-term interest rates low.

The Federal Reserve also said the vast majority of its policymakers believed it would be appropriate for the central bank to raise short-term interest rates starting in 2015. The Federal Funds rate, traditionally the Fed's main tool for regulating the health of the economy, has been near zero since 2008.

Traders were also confused after newly appointed Fed Chair Janet Yellen implied that the Fed's time frame for raising interest rates was closer to the first half of 2015, sooner than many had expected.

At a press conference, Yellen was asked how much

time would need to pass between when the Fed ends its bond-buying program — which is expected to end in the second half of 2014 — and when the Fed would raise interest rates. Yellen responded that the Fed could consider raising interest rates in "six months or that type of thing" from when the bond-buying program would end.

A timetable of six months was much sooner than investors had predicted. So whether or not Yellen meant the "six months" as a definitive time table or a rough estimate based upon where the economy might be in a year, the market took Yellen at her word, strategists said. Stock and bond prices steepened in their decline after she made her comments. The reaction to Yellen's remarks and the Fed's



Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen speaks during her first news conference at the Federal Reserve in Washington, Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Associated Press

announcements was far more noticeable in the bond market.

The yield of the 10-year U.S. Treasury note, a benchmark for many kinds of loans including mortgages, rose to 2.77 percent from 2.67 percent Tuesday, a large move. The sell-off was even more pronounced in two-year and five-year Treasury notes. The yield on the two-year note jumped to 0.42 percent from 0.35 percent and the five-year note's yield rose to 1.7 percent from 1.54 percent. The U.S. dollar had its big-

gest one-day gain since August 2013 and gold had its worst day since December. In afterhours trading, gold was down \$28.20, or 2 percent, to \$1,330.80 an ounce. Financial stocks did better than the rest of the market. Citigroup rose 80 cents, or 1.7 percent, to \$48.94 and Bank of America rose 25 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$17.44. Banks, in particular big commercial lenders like Citi, benefit from higher interest rates because they can charge more for loans and credit card balances. □



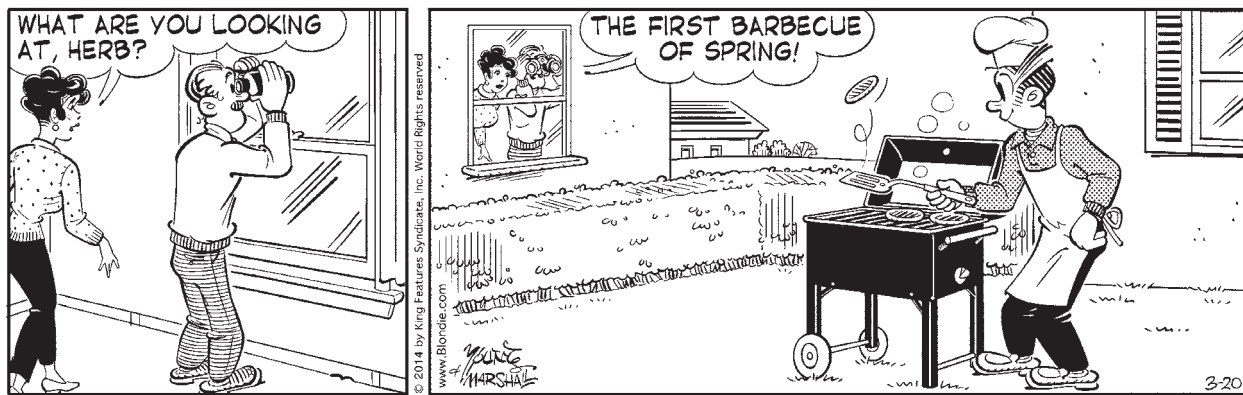
## Mutts



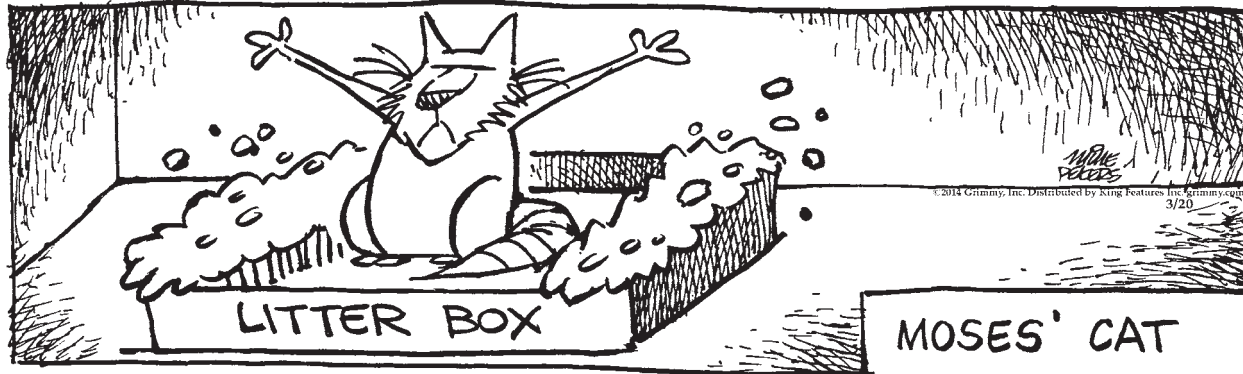
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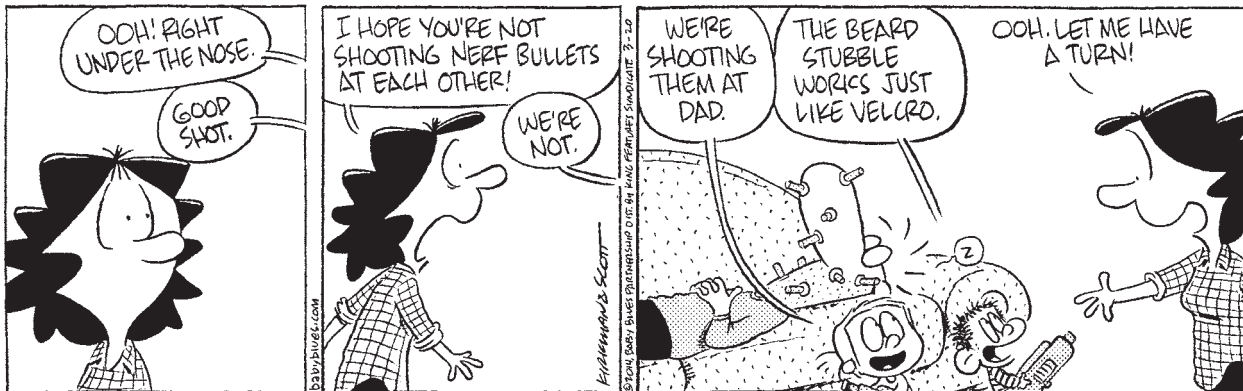
## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

	3		2		5		4	
8		7						
1				4			3	6
			7	2	8			
9				6				5
2		3					5	1
	5		6		3		7	

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	4	6	1	7	5	2	3	8
5	1	8	3	2	6	4	9	7
3	7	2	9	8	4	1	6	5
6	9	3	4	5	2	8	7	1
8	2	4	7	3	1	6	5	9
7	5	1	6	9	8	3	4	2
1	3	7	2	6	9	5	8	4
4	8	9	5	1	3	7	2	6
2	6	5	8	4	7	9	1	3

## ACROSS

- Touches lightly
- Apple drink
- Name for twelve popes
- Remove the lid from
- Worship
- Tabula \_; blank slate
- Cowboy Autry
- Tearful requests
- Foreboding sign
- Dancer Fred
- Toward the ocean
- Backyard pond fish
- Iron or tin
- French farewell
- Evil
- \_ about; studies up on
- Discover
- Nov.'s follower
- Grief
- Tit for \_
- Saudi \_;
- Riyadh resident
- Pass away
- Get-up-and-go
- Poe's initials
- Bridge
- crosser's fee
- More unusual
- \$20 bill spewer, for short
- Hannah of films
- Dog walker's strap
- White lie
- Outer window coverings
- Yellow fruits
- Money borrowed
- Capital of Afghanistan
- Malt shop order
- Leave out
- Detroit team
- Snug & comfy
- Cots and cribs
- Fill with joy
- Individuals

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16		
17				18						19		
20				21			22		23			
			24			25						
26	27	28			29				30	31	32	33
34				35				36				
37				38			39			40		
41		42				43				44		
45						46			47			
			48	49			50					
51	52	53					54			55	56	57
58					59	60				61		
62					63					64		
65					66					67		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/20/14

## Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

## DOWN

- Old forum garb
- Ridicules
- \_ up; confined
- Moved furtively
- Isle of \_;
- Italian resort
- Not working
- Female deer
- Wiped away
- Adjust an alarm
- Lurker
- "\_ Rock"; Simon & Garfunkel hit
- Consumer
- Make smooth
- Debtor's note
- Sluggish Hank
- Tragedy by Shakespeare
- Following
- Actress Rigg
- Bury
- Actress Arthur
- Zeal
- Small lacy mat
- Get bloated
- Parched

GROAN	TABS	ASKS
LIMBO	OBEY	REAP
ATILT	TEAM	KITE
DETAILED	BRAZEN	
ZOOM	SOONEST	
ATHENS	DOLLS	
RHO	SENIOR	EAGER
CALM	RILES	SAVE
HIDES	EERIE	MEN
SPECS	LATENT	
MISSILE	HORA	
IGNITE	MUSHROOM	
FLEE	CRAB	ATONE
FOES	TOMB	RAZED
SOFT	STAY	TRESS

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3/20/14

- Gullible fellow
- Concur
- "\_ Legend"; Will Smith film
- Gives in
- Hot sauce
- Attack
- Clamor
- Leg-to-foot joint
- Not true
- Messy fellow
- Arrive
- Sudden attack
- Tap a baseball
- Lunchtime
- Shaping tool
- Utters
- Deadly viper



## State's same-sex marriage recognition put on hold

**BRETT BARROUQUERE**  
**Associated Press**

**LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP)**

— A federal judge is giving the conservative state of Kentucky more time to officially recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states and countries, saying doing so will allow the law to become settled without causing confusion or granting rights only to have them taken away. The ruling Wednesday comes just two days before gay couples would have been allowed to change their names on official identifications and documents and obtain the benefits of any other married couple in Kentucky. It is similar to those granting same-sex marriage recognition rights but putting the implementation on hold in Texas, Utah, Virginia and other states facing legal challenges to their laws banning same-sex marriage.

U.S. District Judge John G. Heyburn II of Louisville said in a four-page order that it is "best that these momentous changes occur upon full review" rather than being implemented too soon or causing confusing changes.

"That does not serve anyone well," said Heyburn, an appointee of President George H.W. Bush in 1992. Heyburn said the delay would stay in place until the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati either rules on the merits of the case or orders the stay lifted.

"The Court has concerns about implementing an order which has dramatic effects, then having that order reversed, which is one possibility," Heyburn said. "Under such circumstances, rights once granted could be cast in doubt." Same-sex marriage advocates have enjoyed a stunning string of legal victories this year, as judges have overturned voter-approved bans in Texas. □

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### pa Prohimo

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# Group retracing trek of wandering Oregon wolf OR-7

**JEFF BARNARD**

**Associated Press**

**GRANTS PASS, Oregon (AP)**

— Wildlife advocates are preparing to retrace the 1,200-mile (1,930-kilometer) path of a wandering wolf whose trek in 2011 across Oregon and California attracted worldwide attention, hoping their upcoming journey will help build greater acceptance of wolves as they reclaim lost territories across the West. The wolf, dubbed OR-7 and wearing a GPS-equipped collar, became a celebrity at 2 years old after leaving a pack in northeastern Oregon in September 2011, just days after the state issued a kill order for his father and a sibling for preying on livestock.

"It is only through walking it that anyone can truly understand that journey," said Jay Simpson, who plans daily blog posts of panoramic photos and interviews with people the Wolf OR-7 Expedition contacts along the way. "It's not a thing you can understand on Google Earth." Using traditional storytelling, real-time multimedia blogging, time-lapse photography and a documentary film, they hope to offer new insights into what the spread of wolves across the West means for the people who live here, inspire new



**This Nov. 14, 2011 file photo from a hunter's trail camera appears to show OR-7, the young male wolf that has wandered more than 1,000 miles across Oregon and Northern California looking for a mate and a new home.**

**Associated Press**

attitudes that ease conflicts in ranch country and recognize conservationists working to protect wolves. On his route, OR-7 passed through where the last Oregon wolf was killed by a bounty hunter in 1946, and where the last known California wolf was killed in 1924. OR-7's trek is standard procedure for young wolves trying to establish new territories. That's how wolves came

to Oregon in the late 1990s from Idaho, where they were re-established as part of a federal endangered species program. "OR-7 is really a pioneer," said David Moskowitz, a wildlife biologist, tracker and photographer. "He is offering a first glimpse of the new story unfolding about what it is going to be like for wolves returning" to a changed landscape. Unlike five Oregon wolves that migrated east to Ida-

ho, OR-7 has not been shot, noted Amaroq Weiss of the conservation group Center for Biological Diversity. Idaho has allowed wolf hunting since Endangered Species Act protection was lifted in 2011.

The expedition was the brainchild of Portland storyteller Rachael Pecore-Valdez. She was in Berlin, where her husband was studying renewable energy, when she talked to a South African friend, Galeo Saintz, about a trek he had done to raise awareness for endangered rhinos. She decided to do something similar for OR-7.

"For me the expedition is really about learning by talking to other people and asking questions and less about my opinions and thoughts about wolves," Pecore-Valdez said.

Saintz is founder of the Wild Peace Alliance, which uses expedition adventure to ease conflicts between people and wildlife and celebrate successful work by conservationists.

"Wolf OR-7 inspires me, because he highlights that the ordinary is often remarkable if we just give it the right attention and appreciate what it means," he said in an email. "He is the ultimate lone wolf on an unknown quest to make the most of his one precious

life, and I just love that." Pecore-Valdez contacted Moskowitz, whose wildlife tracking class she had taken, and they were rolling. Filmmaker Daniel Byers is shooting a documentary along the way.

The core of the expedition — 300 miles (480 kilometers) of hiking and 900 miles (1,500 kilometers) of biking in 40 days — is sponsored by a \$5,700 grant from Sculpt the Future Foundation. It was matched by Xplore, which funds projects that exhibit passion with aspects of play. The expedition launched a Kickstarter campaign to raise \$21,000 for a documentary and multimedia.

They plan to start at a spot overlooking Hells Canyon in Northeastern Oregon in mid-May, and follow OR-7's general route, biking where they can, hiking where they have to, taking note of landmarks, such as where the wolf crossed Interstate 5 north of Yreka, Calif.

None of them wants to actually stumble across OR-7, who now resides in Southern Oregon, for fear of putting more stress in his life.

"These creatures are living very close to the bone," Moskowitz said. "As humans add more challenges to the landscape, it makes that proposition even more amazing." □

## Obama unleashing power of data on climate change

**SETH BORENSTEIN**

**AP Science Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Obama administration hopes to fight global warming with the geeky power of numbers, maps and even gaming-type simulations. Officials figure the more you know about climate change the more likely you

will do something.

The White House on Wednesday announced an initiative to provide private companies and local governments better access to already public climate data.

The idea is that with that localized data they can help the public understand the

risks they face, especially in coastal areas where flooding is a big issue.

The government also is working with several high-tech companies, such as Google, Microsoft and Intel, to come up with tools to make communities more resilient in dealing with weather extremes, such as flooding, heat waves and drought. They include computer simulations for people to use and see what would happen with rising seas and other warming scenarios. Also, companies will hold brainstorming sessions with computer programmers aimed at designing new apps on disaster risk.

NASA and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Ad-

ministration will try get people to create simulations to understand flooding risks in an upcoming coastal flooding challenge. One effort would include putting sensors on Philadelphia city buses to collect data to track the effect of climate change.

In its second term, the administration has made more of an effort to connect global warming to its effect on people, especially extreme weather and disasters.

White House advisers John Podesta and John Holdren in a blog said the idea is to create easy-to-use tools for the average person to prepare people to be more resilient to the harms of cli-

mate change.

But, he added, if people look online and see that their city is not at higher risk from climate change, that could backfire on the Obama administration and make those people less likely to do something.

Climate scientist Chris Field of the Carnegie Institution for Science, who later this month will be the chief author of a massive United Nations affiliated report on the impacts of global warming, hailed the efforts. "It is especially important for people, communities and firms to understand the features of their environment and their operations that create climate risk," Field said in an email. □

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# Suzanne Vega's new disc: Don't let title scare you

DAVID BAUDER  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The title of Suzanne Vega's new disc, "Tales From the Realm of the Queen of Pentacles," sounds like an unreleased Yes album from around 1977.

"Is that why people keep going, 'It's very prog rock, '90'?" Vega said with a laugh. "I don't know what they're talking about."

The mouthful moniker is a reference to tarot cards and the spiritual world, the latter an overarching theme to her first album of new material in seven years. The typically well-crafted set has songs that touch upon a stoic laborer with a shameful secret, a loved one's death and the resurrection of a political figure who sounds like Nelson Mandela but was written with Vaclav Havel in mind.

Vega totes an acoustic guitar and her image as a folkie songwriter dates back to her biggest hit, "Luka."

Yet it's not really accurate, and hasn't been for some time. She's quite adventurous musically, and her new disc samples 50 Cent's "Candy Shop,"



This March 7, 2014 photo shows Suzanne Vega in New York. Vega's latest release is "Tales From the Realm of the Queen of Pentacles."

Associated Press

name-checks Macklemore and lays down some of her hardest-rocking tracks. Producer-guitarist Gerry Leonard said the Black Keys and White Stripes inspired the arrangement for the catchy "I Never Wear White." After writing a folk song like "Gypsy" when she was 18, "I felt that I had done that very well and I wanted to go on," said Vega, who's now 54. "I thought that's what you're supposed to do as an artist, go where your inspiration takes you

and go where your imagination takes you. I don't feel like I'm experimenting for the sake of experimentation."

She's always had a strong collaborator, in this case Leonard, an affable Brit who's also David Bowie's music director. Her rhythmically thrilling work with producer, now ex-husband, Mitchell Froom in the 1990s was a landmark. But don't get the wrong idea.

"When I was with Mitchell

sometimes people felt like he overshadowed me and I said, 'No, I hired him to do exactly those things,'" she said. "I'm the source here — not him. He did what I wanted, thank you very much. It's not his expression, it's mine."

Same thing with Leonard. Although he toured with her as a guitarist, Vega was reluctant to hire him as a producer, considering his music too ethereal for what she wanted. His work on "I Never Wear White" proved

to Vega he could do the job.

"Some people have gaps in their catalog with Suzanne," Leonard said. "The thing with Suzanne is there has always been a very modern slant to her writing. There are so many songs that are almost like modern art, if you think of them in a visual sense. They're not your straightforward paintings — a landscape or a portrait. It has this edge to it." After recording for major labels since she was 24, Vega puts her music out herself now. During the past few years she released re-recordings of past work on thematic discs, both to re-acquaint fans with the music and test a new distribution system.

She still needed a push to get going again.

"I spent most of my life making records with a strict structure," she said. "Now suddenly I had to create my own structure. If it wasn't for Gerry Leonard calling me on the phone and saying, 'Hey, I need the work,' it would have been another three years. ... People would have completely forgotten about me." □

## Allitt's new book reviews U.S. environmental history

JENNIFER KAY  
Associated Press

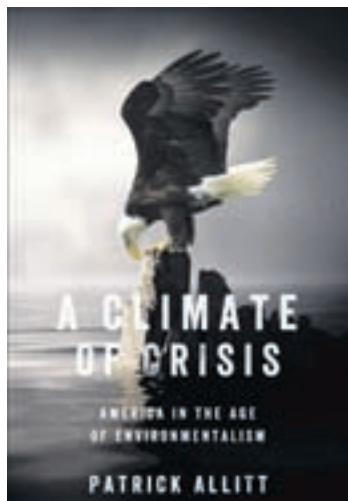
According to "A Climate of Crisis," climate change and other pressing environmental concerns will be, instead of disasters, problems handily managed by America's capitalism and technological know-how. That's bound to be a hard sell on any of the shorelines that regularly disappear under projections of rising sea levels.

The thing to keep in mind when reading "A Climate of Crisis" is that the author, Patrick Allitt, is not a climatologist or any kind of scientist. Allitt is a historian — one who puts his skeptical bias right in the book's introduction, noting that he's receptive to ideas from "counter-

environmentalists."

Allitt's thesis is that since other environmental problems, such as endangered species or river cleanups, over the last 60 years have been managed in the U.S., climate change will be no different. It's not clear what bar he's using to judge whether a problem has been "managed," though. Instead of explaining that, Allitt instead blames the media and scientists publicizing their research for public pushes for more environmental regulations.

Curiously, while Allitt puts the work of environmentalists into the context of their skeptics, he doesn't evaluate that skepticism as evenly. There is a difference between scientific



This book cover image released by The Penguin Press shows "A Climate of Crisis: America in the Age of Environmentalism." by Patrick Allitt.

Associated Press

uncertainty and political skepticism, which Allitt doesn't acknowledge. □

## Coldplay's Chris Martin to help on 'The Voice'



This March 11, 2014 file photo shows Coldplay's Chris Martin performing at the iTunes Festival during the SXSW Music Festival in Austin, Texas. Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Coldplay singer Chris Martin is bringing his expertise to NBC's music competition show "The Voice."

The network said Martin will participate in the "battles" round that begins March 31, advising singers on vocal technique and stage presence. The singers are vying for the attention of their team coaches, who must decide who gets to move on in the show.

"The Voice" has established itself this season as the most popular of the music shows, eclipsing the long-running champ "American Idol" on Fox. □



# No pope meeting for Russell Crowe, 'Noah' makers

**NICOLE WINFIELD**  
**Associated Press**

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** — Actor Russell Crowe and the makers of the big-budget film "Noah" attended Pope Francis' general audience Wednesday but didn't get what they most wanted: a papal meeting and photo-op.

Crowe had lobbied hard for a papal thumbs up for his film and the ensuing publicity a Francis blessing would bring. The film has been banned in much of the Muslim world because of its depiction of the prophet, while U.S. conservatives have complained it took liberties with the Biblical account of the flood. The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the request from Noah's producers for a private audience was immediately turned down.

In an email Wednesday to The Associated Press, Lombardi said there was similarly no scheduled "meet and greet" after Wednesday's general audience, when VIPs can often get a



**Actor Russell Crowe, right, attends Pope Francis' general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, Wednesday, March 19, 2014.**

**Associated Press**

quick word with the pope. "They could have been at the audience like anyone else," Lombardi said. Wednesday's audience drew an estimated crowd of 80,000. Francis is loath to lend such blessings for publicity. Given his sensitivities to the Muslim world — and his upcoming trip to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories — it would seem natural that he would decline any public endorsement of a film that might

offend Muslim viewers. Variety reported that the Noah delegation, including Crowe, director Darren Aronofsky, producer Scott Franklin, and the vice chairman of Paramount Pictures, Rob Moore, had met with the pope. Variety cited a spokeswoman for Universal, which is distributing the film in Italy. But in an email to AP, Paramount merely said the delegation "went to hear" Francis' address at the audience. □



**This Aug. 19, 2013 file photo originally released by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Lily Tomlin, left, Jane Fonda attend the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences 2013 Performers Peer Group Reception in Universal City, Calif.**

**Associated Press**

## Fonda, Tomlin to reteam for a Netflix sitcom

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Netflix says it's reuniting Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin for a new comedy series.

The online TV network will launch "Grace and Frankie" starring Fonda and Tomlin as long-time foes who come together when their husbands desert them after falling in love.

The single-camera comedy will film a first season of 13 half-hour episodes to premiere on Netflix next year.

The two actresses co-starred a quarter-century ago in the comedy hit, "Nine to Five."

Fonda recently appeared on HBO's "The Newsroom" and was seen in the film "Lee Daniels' The Butler." Tomlin appeared in last year's Tina Fey comedy, "Admission."

Marta Kauffman is a writer and creator of "Grace and Frankie." She's a creator of the sitcom classic "Friends." □

# Spielberg's Shoah Foundation expands, turns 20

**SANDY COHEN**  
**AP Entertainment Writer**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Steven Spielberg isn't planning on making any more Holocaust movies. The Oscar-winning director is leaving that to the Shoah Foundation.

After "Schindler's List," Spielberg turned his lens on real survivors of the World War II Jewish genocide through his foundation, which has since filmed nearly 52,000 testimonies from Holocaust survivors around the world. As the organization turns 20, it has expanded its mission to include interviews with survivors of other genocides, including those in Armenia, Cambodia and Rwanda. Spielberg was inspired to create the foundation after meeting so many Holocaust survivors while mak-

ing "Schindler's List," which tells the story of a German businessman who used his Nazi ties to rescue 1,100 Jews from the Holocaust. The film's greatest legacy isn't its seven Oscars, \$300 million in worldwide box office or even its message of humanity, says the 67-year-old, but the ongoing work of the Shoah Foundation. "It literally popped into my head on the drive back to my house in Krakow after a day of shooting the film that if 'Schindler's List' had any success at all, the success would not be a monetary, commercial one, but the success would be that this film would open a door for me to start taking as many testimonies as humanly possible," Spielberg said in a telephone interview Monday on behalf of the organization, now



**In this March 3, 2004 file photo, Steven Spielberg, third from left, director of the 1993 World War II epic "Schindler's List," and five survivors of the Holocaust, from left, Celina Biniaz, Rena Fagen, Lewis Fagen, Leon Leyson and Helen Jonas-Rosenzweig, pose for a group photo at a press briefing announcing the release of the film on DVD, and the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Shoah Foundation, at Universal Studios in Universal City, Calif.**

**Associated Press**

known as USC Shoah Foundation — The Institute for Visual History and Education. He also wrote the introduction for a book commemo-

rating its 20th anniversary, "Testimony: The Legacy of Schindler's List and the USC Shoah Foundation," which will be released next week.

Spielberg, who riled the film industry last year when he predicted "an implosion" of the Hollywood studio system spawned by mega-budget flops, declined to address those comments. But would a studio invest in a film like "Schindler's List" today?

"I have my own studio, so I would have just paid for it," he said. "That's how 'Lincoln' got made."

His ongoing investment in the Shoah Foundation, though, may be the filmmaker's most meaningful.

"I'm very proud of this legacy," he said. "I wouldn't trade this for anything in the world."

Amid his roster of projects, Spielberg stays close to the organization: "I'm basically like a doctor on call. I have everything but a beeper on my belt." □



## The Age of Individualism



Ross Douthat

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In the future, it seems, there will be only one "ism" - Individualism - and its rule will never end. As for religion, it shall decline; as for marriage, it shall be postponed; as for ideologies, they shall be rejected; as for patriotism, it shall be abandoned; as for strangers, they shall be distrusted. Only pot, selfies and Facebook will abide - and the greatest of these will probably be Facebook.

That's the implication, at least, of what the polling industry keeps telling us about the rising American generation, the so-called millennials. (Full disclosure: I am not quite one of them, having entered the world in the penultimate year of Generation X.) A new Pew survey, the latest dispatch from the land of young adulthood, describes a generation that's socially liberal on issues like immigration and marijuana and same-sex marriage, proudly independent of either political party, less likely to be married and religious than earlier generations, less likely to identify as patriotic and less likely - by a striking margin - to say that one's fellow human beings can be trusted.

In political terms, the millennials are liberals on the surface, which is why the Pew report inspired a round of discussion about whether they're likely to transform electoral politics in the short run (no, because cohort replacement is slow, and it's Generation X that's actually moving into positions of influence right now), whether they will push our political debates leftward in the long run (probably, because youthful voting patterns tend to persist across the life cycle), and whether this gives the Democratic Party a hammerlock on the future (it doesn't, because political coalitions always adapt and fracture in unexpected ways).

But the millennials' skepticism of parties, programs and people runs deeper than their allegiance to a particular ideology. Their left-wing commitments are ardent on a few issues but blur into libertarianism and indifference on others. The common denominator is individualism, not left-wing politics: It explains both the personal optimism and the social mistrust, the passion about causes like gay marriage and the declining interest in collective-action crusades like environmentalism, even the fact that religious affiliation has declined but personal belief is still widespread.

So the really interesting question about the millennials isn't whether they'll all be voting Democratic when Chelsea Clinton runs for president. It's whether this level of individualism - postpatriotic, postfamilial, disaffiliated - is actually sustainable across the life cycle, and whether it can become a culture's dominant way of life. One can answer "yes" to this question cheerfully or pessimistically - with the optimism of a libertarian who sees such individualism as a liberation from every form of oppression and control, or the pessimism of a communitarian who sees social isolation, atomization and unhappiness trailing in its wake.

But one can also answer "no," and argue that the human desire for community and authority cannot be permanently buried - in which case the most important question in an era of individualism might be what form of submission it presages.

This was the point raised in 1953 by Robert Nisbet's "Quest for Community," arguably the 20th century's most important work of conservative sociology. (I wrote the introduction when it was reissued.) Trying to explain modern totalitarianism's dark allure, Nisbet argued that it was precisely the emancipation of the individual in modernity - from clan, church and guild - that had enabled the rise of fascism and Communism.

In the increasing absence of local, personal forms of fellowship and solidarity, he suggested, people were naturally drawn to mass movements, cults of personality, nationalistic fantasies. The advance of individualism thus eventually produced its own antithesis - conformism, submission and control. You don't have to see a fascist or Communist revival on the horizon (I certainly don't) to see this argument's potential relevance for our apparently individualistic future. You only have to look at the place where millennials - and indeed, most of us - are clearly seeking new forms of community today.

That place is the online realm, which offers a fascinating variation on Nisbet's theme. Like modernity writ large, it promises emancipation and offers new forms of community that transcend the particular and local. But it requires a price, in terms of privacy surrendered, that past tyrannies could have only dreamed of exacting from their subjects.

This surrender could prove to be benign. But it's still noteworthy that today's vaguely totalitarian arguments don't usually come from political demagogues. They come from enthusiasts for the online Panopticon, the uploaded world where everyone will be transparent to everyone else.

That kind of future is far from inevitable. But as Nisbet would argue, and as the rising generation of Americans may yet need to learn, it probably cannot be successfully resisted by individualism alone. □



## That old-time whistle



Paul Krugman

© 2014 New York Times News Service

There are many negative things you can say about Paul Ryan, chairman of the House Budget Committee and the GOP's de facto intellectual leader. But you have to admit that he's a very articulate guy, an expert at sounding as if he knows what he's talking about.

So it's comical, in a way, to see Ryan trying to explain away some recent remarks in which he attributed persistent poverty to a "culture, in our inner cities in particular, of men not working and just generations of men not even thinking about working." He was, he says, simply being "inarticulate." How could anyone suggest that it was a racial dog-whistle? Why, he even cited the work of serious scholars - people like Charles Murray, most famous for arguing that blacks are genetically inferior to whites. Oh, wait.

Just to be clear, there's no evidence that Ryan is personally a racist, and his dog-whistle may not even have been deliberate. But it doesn't matter. He said what he said because that's the kind of thing conservatives say to each other all the time. And why do they say such things? Because American conservatism is still, after all these years, largely driven by claims that liberals are taking away your hard-earned money and giving it to Those People.

Indeed, race is the Rosetta Stone that makes sense of many other-

wise incomprehensible aspects of U.S. politics.

We are told, for example, that conservatives are against big government and high spending. Yet even as Republican governors and state legislatures block the expansion of Medicaid, the GOP angrily denounces modest cost-saving measures for Medicare. How can this contradiction be explained? Well, what do many Medicaid recipients look like - and I'm talking about the color of their skin, not the content of their character - and how does that compare with the typical Medicare beneficiary? Mystery solved.

Or we're told that conservatives, the Tea Party in particular, oppose handouts because they believe in personal responsibility, in a society in which people must bear the consequences of their actions. Yet it's hard to find angry Tea Party denunciations of huge Wall Street bailouts, of huge bonuses paid to executives who were saved from disaster by government backing and guarantees. Instead, all the movement's passion, starting with Rick Santelli's famous rant on CNBC, has been directed against any hint of financial relief national advocacy network, Organizing for Action, will finally step in with some money to offset the wave of outside spending by the Republicans.

The state of relations between congressional Democrats and the administration has been deteriorating every week, but now it's hitting a new bottom - and not only with the extraordinary open feud between the CIA and the Senate intelligence committee. Hill Democrats are seething at Obama, fearing that the onetime messiah is putting them in a slough that will last until - or through - 2016.

Top Democrats who were fans of the president and prone to giving him the benefit of the doubt now say they've completely lost confidence in the White House's ability to advance an agenda and work with them in a way that's going to give Democrats

a fighting chance in November. At the heart of all this, really, is that the White House totally blew the rollout of the health care law and Democrats have not recovered. It provided a huge opening for Republicans, who had just shut down the government and were tanking in the polls and in despair themselves.

Now there's a lot of spring in the step of Republicans as spring approaches.

It's not just congressional Democrats who are kvetching. Mark Zuckerberg called the president to vent about government incursions on privacy. And the New Yorker editor, David Remnick, talked to The New Republic about Obama's "locutions," his habit of going, "On the one hand. On the other hand. That is to say."

"On the other hand, excuse me," Remnick said, laughing, "I wish I could hear a lot more from him about, say, Ukraine, than I have, other than just 'We are keeping out.'"

Obama's approval ratings will shape the midterms, and some Hill observers compare his crumpling numbers to an illness. The president didn't do the basic things to take care of himself, and now he's gone terminal and contagious.

The closest the president came to getting a leg up on mounting a defense was Friday when he told Ryan Seacrest in a radio interview that he had been unfairly maligned for his mom jeans: "Generally, I look very sharp in jeans."

Due to the inability of the president and congressional Democrats to move their agenda through Congress, the president is having to govern through executive order and revising federal regulations.

Republicans have latched on to this to make the case around the country that Obama is a dictator and an imperial president. But governing through executive order isn't a sign of strength. It's a sign of weakness.

And it's that weakness that has Democrats scared to death. □



# Yoga by Numbers works to bring poses to the people

**RIK STEVENS**

**Associated Press**

**BOW, N.H. (AP)** — Combine Twister, paint-by-numbers and the ancient Hindu practice of breath control, meditation and poses, and you get Yoga by Numbers. The approach — complete with a numbered mat — was designed by a Boston woman whose own health scare inspired her to put yoga in reach for people with physical limitations, tight schedules or other roadblocks to traditional practice.

The oversized yoga mat is dotted with big, numbered circles that look like the target in a rifle scope. The accompanying DVD gives true yoga beginners — those who wouldn't know an up-dog from a Chihuahua — a step-by-step roadmap to learn the poses at their own pace.

Elizabeth Morrow was an athlete, a skier and soccer player who, two years ago, found herself hospitalized with a right lung full of blood clots, the lower lobe completely collapsed. When she was strong enough to start exercising again, she found even the easiest of yoga classes too taxing. She didn't have the stamina for an hour, couldn't hold the poses the way the instructor wanted.

So, the 32-year-old started thinking of ways to make it easier, more convenient and even more fundamental than the myriad DVDs already on the market.

"I was thinking about a paint-by-number kit where you don't need to be Picasso or van Gogh, you just follow what they tell you and you'll come out with something," she said.

"I just wanted something that felt really accessible and doable for people. The image of the mat just popped into my head: 'Wow, I can do yoga by numbers as well.'"

The DVD tells users exactly which circle to put their hands and feet in and allows for advancement to more challenging poses. Yoga by Numbers has been compared to Twister, the popular game with giant

colored circles, spinning wheel and crazy, cross-limbed poses. But Morrow's cool with that, even when it comes from critics.

"I think it's awesome when they have that reaction because to me, that means they get it and they know how to use it," said Morrow, a certified yoga instructor. Morrow has sold to people who live far from a yoga studio, those with tight schedules who need to squeeze in practice whenever they can, and people with health conditions. The National Institutes of Health's National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine reports that recent studies of people with chronic low-back pain suggest yoga can help reduce pain and improve function.

Other research shows regular practice might reduce heart rate, blood pressure and stress and may help relieve anxiety and depression.



**In this March 7, 2014 photo, Elizabeth Morrow poses on her specially designed Yoga by Numbers mat in Bow, N.H. The mat gives true yoga beginners a step-by-step roadmap to learn poses at their own pace.**  
**Associated Press**



**In this March 7, 2014 photo, Elizabeth Morrow poses on her specially designed Yoga by Numbers mat in Bow, N.H.**  
**Associated Press**

"People who are older are using it because the DVD really focuses you on not contorting yourself into Cirque du Soleil-style acrobatics," Morrow said. She demonstrated the mat recently at her parent's house in Bow, N.H., about an hour north of Boston. The latest "Yoga in Amer-

ica" study, released by Yoga Journal, reported 20.4 million Americans practiced yoga in 2012, compared to 15.8 million in 2008.

They spent \$10.3 billion on classes and products, up from \$5.7 billion the earlier survey.

Janet Lark teaches yoga in Ogden, Iowa, and had

a bad experience with a poorly cut, astringent-smelling mat, so she started doing some research. She came upon Morrow's mat and was struck by how simple it was for novices.

"It truly was a 'Duh! Why didn't anyone think of that sooner?' moment," she said. "It is fantastic to notice how quickly the cli-

ents start to focus on making sure they are properly aligned."

Morrow, who worked in the nonprofit sector for several years, also hears from purists who pooh-pooh the mats as a gimmick.

"My response is that this is not a mandate," she said. "I think that if you're already practicing yoga and it works for you, that's great and I'm really excited for you. I'm interested in hearing from people for whom the system doesn't work."

A spokeswoman for the nonprofit Yoga Alliance, which represents teachers, schools and studios, said the ideal situation is to learn from a master teacher in private classes, but time and cost can be barriers.

"Any tool that helps people practice yoga is a good thing," said Katie Desmond.

"And so we applaud Elizabeth's ingenuity in spreading the power of yoga by helping to make the process of learning yoga as a beginner more accessible." Morrow patented the idea and sells the mats, made in the U.S. from sustainable rubber, for \$119.95 including DVD and carry strap. She started selling on The Grommet, a website that launches undiscovered products, then had a successful, online crowd-sourced campaign to raise more start-up funds.

She also registered the business as a benefit corporation in Massachusetts, which means she can write into the bylaws that the company's social mission takes precedence over the bottom line for shareholders.

Up next: She wants to focus on reaching kids, especially those at risk, and hopes to partner with social services providers. If she makes money along the way, all the better.

"I think politicians sort of create this false dichotomy where you either have to be pro-business or pro-social program and that you can't do both," she said. "A lot of corporations want to put out the message that it's just not profitable and that is just not true." □